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Scenic, Historic and Back Country Byways

Byways are grouped into three regions and then listed in alphabetical order. As you flip through this brochure, use the region's background color shown here to quickly identify the region of Idaho. The matching region color appears on the right side of each byway's page.

Panhandle Region

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Taking the Scenic Route

This publication is a glovebox guide to Idaho's scenic, historic and back country byways and the natural attractions through which they pass. Each byway is referred to by name and location, with the number of miles and amount of time needed to travel it listed for your reference. A description of the byway's surface and grade, and the availability of roadside services including rest stops, campgrounds, and special attractions, are also provided. Services are listed as "full" when gas, food, and lodging are available. "Partial" services include gas and a few other facilities. Rest areas generally offer only restrooms, telephones, vending machines, and a place to relax.

Please remember to always buckle up and observe posted speed limits.



The America's Byway symbol signifies the byway has received special designation as a "National" scenic byway or an "All-American Road."

For Idaho's recreation opportunities go to:

www.visitid.org or call 1-800 VISIT-ID

For Idaho Park and Recreation information go to:

www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks

For Biking information go to:

www.itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/bikeTouring.html

For Idaho Scenic Byways Program information go to:

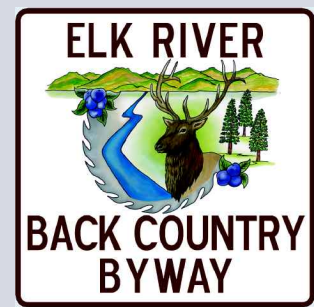
www.itd.idaho.gov/Byways or contact Garry Young, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Scenic Byways Program Manager at (208) 334-8214 or e-mail at Garry.Young@itd.idaho.gov.

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Location

Begins in Orofino at Idaho 7 and junction of Wells Bench Road, crosses the North Fork of the Clearwater at Dent Bridge, then to Elk River where it joins Idaho 8 to Bovill.

Length

57 miles. Allow 2 hours one way.

Roadway

Wells Bench is a two lane county road paved to one mile beyond Dent Bridge; from there the road surface is gravel; at Elk River the roadway is again a paved 2 lane road with slow vehicle turnouts. The route is well maintained year round but can be icy in winter.

When to see it

Year round. Summer offers camping, boating, fishing, hiking, and touring. Winter provides snowmobiling on 300 miles and skiing on 20 miles of regularly maintained groomed trails.

Special attractions

City of Orofino; Dent Bridge; Scenic Viewpoint — Confluence of Elk Creek & North Fork Clearwater River (Dworshak Reservoir); Loop Road to USFS Campground & town; Mill Pond & Mill Site; Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association; Elk River downtown; Elk River Historical Museum; Giant Western Redcedar & Morris Cedar Grove; Elk Creek Falls; City of Bovill.

Camping

Three RV Parks in Orofino; campgrounds along Dworshak Reservoir (Canyon Creek & Dent); Elk River has 64 camping sites along Elk Creek Pond, 23 improved sites at the Forest Service campground, and a RV Park with 24 sites; RV Park with 15 sites in Bovill. The forest lands along the byway are open to off road unimproved camping so visitors can choose their own spot off the beaten path.

Services

Full services in Orofino and Elk River; partial services in Bovill.

Contacts

Elk River Lodge & General Store: 208-826-3299 or www.elkriverlodge.net; and Orofino Chamber of Commerce: 208-476-4335 or www.orofino.com.

Elk River Back Country Byway

This is an all natural, no frills, individualistic and unpretentious pathway through rural North Central Idaho. It is a 57-mile route to adventure, fun and relaxation for travelers of all types. Travelers quickly enter a vast evergreen forested landscape that draws one deeper and forward towards the horizon of the Clearwater Mountain range. Through a series of dips and turns the route reveals the diversity of landscapes in this back country region of Idaho.

From Orofino the route begins with a climb up and along Wells Bench where ranchettes and farmsteads are scattered along the benches and between timber patches. As the forested areas get more prevalent, travelers will drop down towards Dworshak Reservoir, crossing Dent Bridge, which is a suspension bridge that provides a link to western Clearwater County and vast forest lands that built the local economy. Along the path there are opportunities to observe wildlife of many types: bear, bobcats, cougar, deer, elk, osprey, songbirds, wild turkeys, possibly wolves and a wide variety of the forest's small woodland creatures. Thirty-four miles from Orofino lies Elk River, a quaint community that has gone full circle: Established as a remote hunting and recreation camp, developed by Potlatch as a mill town (site of the first electric powered mill), only to return to a recreational community in the twenty-first century.

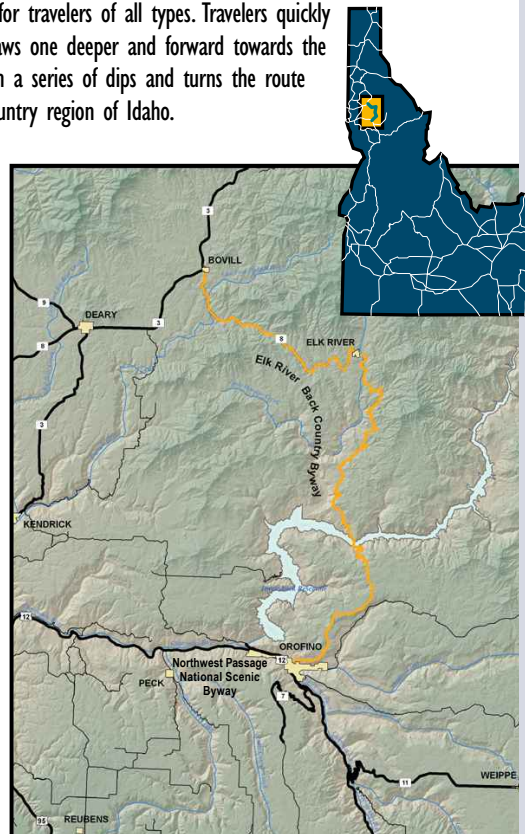




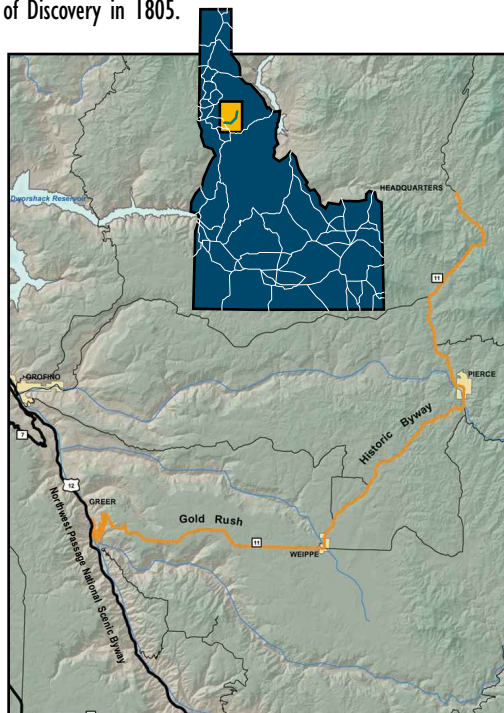
Photo by Cammie Ebert

Gold Rush Historic Byway

Rich in scenery, history, and wildlife, the route along Idaho 11 begins in Greer at the junction of U.S. 12 with an easy climb up the Greer Grade, providing a breathtaking, panoramic view of the Clearwater Valley. At the crest of the mountain lie the beautiful rolling fields of grains and grasses cultivated by local farmers. Just down the road is the historic town of Weippe, not far from where members of the Nez Perce Tribe met and fed starving members of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery in 1805.

Minutes later, the scenery changes again, as the vast fields transform into a lush forest thick with wildlife. Nestled among the trees is the town of Pierce, where early pioneers discovered gold in Idaho for the first time. It also boasts the state's inaugural government building, the old Shoshone County Courthouse. Other attractions include a logging museum, the city library's artifact collection from the adventures of Chinese miners in the area, and five more historical sites featured along the byway.

Twelve miles north of Pierce is the village of Headquarters, marking the end of the Gold Rush Historic Byway and the beginning of the area's other "gold mine" — the majestic and seemingly endless Clearwater National Forest.



Gold Rush Historic Byway

Location

Begins at the junction of U.S. 12 and Idaho 11 on the Clearwater River at Greer.

Length

42.5 miles. Allow 2.5 hours round trip.

Roadway

Idaho 11 is a two-lane road with some passing lanes. It is well maintained with several turnouts for scenic viewing. It can be icy during winter months.

When to see it

Year around. Summer offers camping, fishing, riding, and hiking areas. Winter provides skiing and snowmobiling on 350 miles of groomed and open trails, maintained weekly.

Special attractions

Lewis and Clark historical sites; Weippe Discovery Center; Idaho's first county courthouse; Bradbury Logging Museum; Pierce City Library and historic downtown area; a Chinese cemetery; Bald Mountain Ski Area; and the Clearwater National Forest.

Camping

Three RV parks in Pierce, two in Weippe; campgrounds in Fraser Park and both Hollywood and Campbell's Pond. There are many camping areas in the surrounding Clearwater National Forest and the North Fork of the Clearwater River recreational area.

Services

Full services in Weippe and Pierce; partial services in Greer. Headquarters has no services.

Contacts

Pierce-Weippe Chamber of Commerce: (208) 435-4406, www.pierce-weippechamber.com; City of Pierce: (208) 464-2222, www.ohwy.com/id/p/pierce.htm; City of Weippe: (208) 435-4216 www.weippe.com.



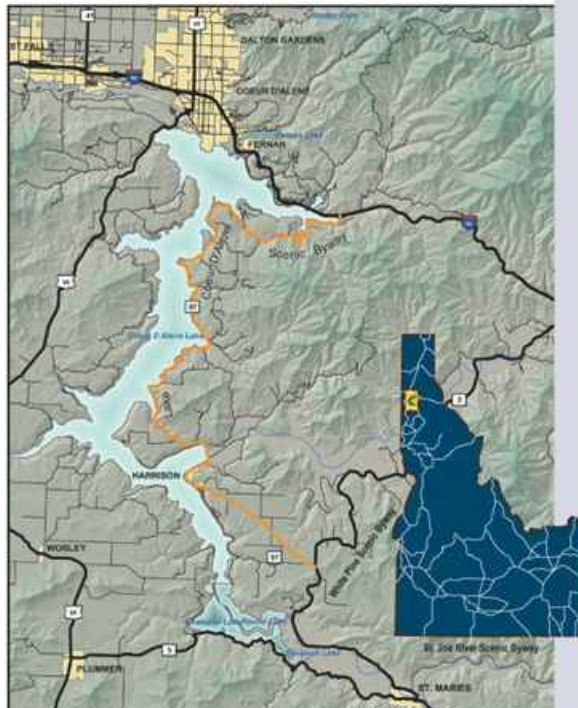
Photo by Joshua Henson © IdahoStockImages.com

Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway

The Lake Coeur d'Alene (cör-da-lane) Scenic Byway travels an area where the lakes, mountains, and beautiful summer weather have made it one of the most famous summer playgrounds and resort destinations in the Pacific Northwest. It's also home to a variety of wildlife, including moose, deer, elk, bear and several bird species, still roaming the pristine forests of northern Idaho.

Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 97, the route travels south along the eastern shoreline of Lake Coeur d'Alene, home to bald eagles and the largest population of nesting osprey in the Western states. Take a break and stretch your legs on the Mineral Ridge Trail, which offers panoramic views of the lake, as well as several learning stations describing the area's botany and animal life.

The route continues through gentle hills and dense forests to the charming town of Harrison. This byway ends at Idaho 3, where it meets the White Pine Scenic Byway and its southern route to the Palouse.



Location

Begins at the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 97 and follows Idaho 97 south and east along Lake Coeur d'Alene to Idaho 3.

Length

35.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

Idaho 97 is a two-lane, winding road with few passing lanes.

When to see it

Year around. Eagle watching is great in December and January between Wolf Lodge Bay and Beauty Bay.

Special attractions

Lake Coeur d'Alene; Mineral Ridge Trail at Beauty Bay; Historic Harrison; Thompson Lake Wildlife Refuge; Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

Camping

Beauty Creek east of Beauty Bay, Bell Bay near Harrison, city of Harrison.

Services

Partial services in Carlin Bay, Squaw Bay, and Harrison. Full Services in Coeur d'Alene.

Contacts

Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce: (208) 664-3194 or (877) 782-9232, info@coeurdalene.org, www.coeurdalene.org; St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: (208) 245-3563, www.stmarieschamber.org; Harrison Chamber of Commerce: (208) 689-3669, www.harrisonidaho.org; Idaho Panhandle National Forest: (208) 765-7223.



Northwest Passage Scenic Byway

— All American Road —

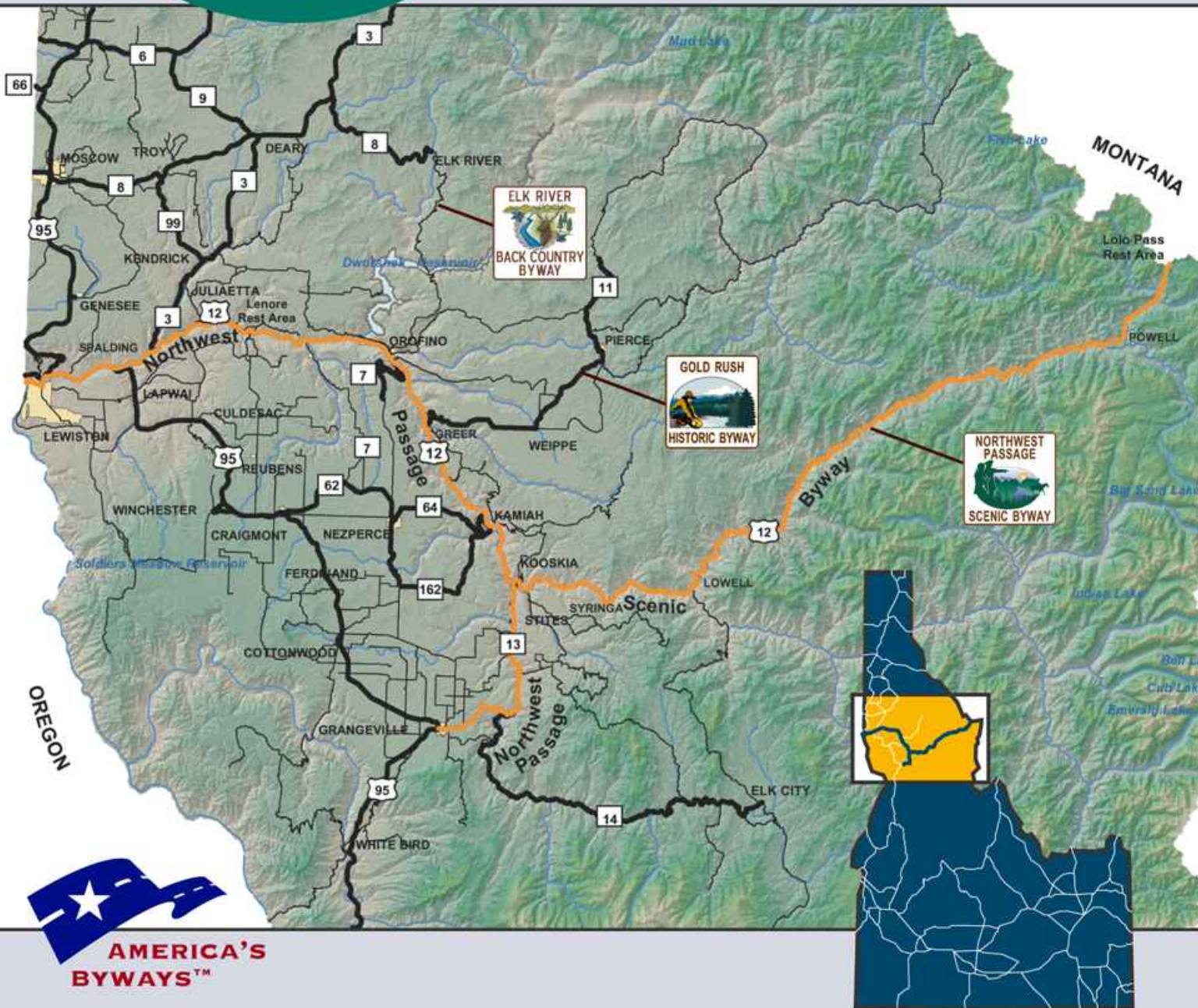




Photo by Mary Lortish Jahn ©

Northwest Passage Scenic Byway



In 1803, President Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to find the Northwest Passage, the link between the Missouri River and the Columbia River through the unexplored Rocky Mountains. This 202-mile byway, stretching across north-central Idaho, follows the explorers' route through the ancestral homeland of the Nez Perce people.

From the west, this beautiful route begins on U.S. 12 at Lewiston, and traverses the winding Clearwater River Canyon, passing through the Nez Perce National Historical Park areas of Spalding and Kamiah and the towns of Orofino and Kooskia. At Kamiah is the Heart of the Monster, a geologic formation and legendary Nez Perce site.

At Kooskia the byway splits. One segment turns south on Idaho Highway 13 toward the Camas Prairie and the town of Grangeville. Another segment continues east on U.S. 12 along the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River, and the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River, through a magnificent wilderness culminating at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center.



Northwest Passage Scenic Byway

Location

Begins in Lewiston and follows U.S. 12 northeast to the Idaho–Montana border; also follows Idaho 13 from Kooskia to Grangeville and the junction of U.S. 95.

Length

202 miles. Lewiston to Montana, 175 miles, allow 4 hours. Kooskia to Grangeville, 27 miles, allow 40 minutes.

Roadway

Idaho 13 and U.S. 12 are winding, two-lane roads with occasional passing lanes and slow vehicle turnouts. Winter driving conditions may include black ice in the canyons and snow-covered roads at higher elevations.

When to see it

Boating, fishing, heritage sites, and wildlife viewing year-round. Whitewater opportunities in spring and summer.

Special attractions

U.S. 12 parallels the Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce national historic trails. Sites include Tseminicum sculpture, Lewiston; Nez Perce National Historical Park Visitor Center, Spalding; Canoe Camp, Orofino; Heart of the Monster, Kamiah; mammoth exhibit, Grangeville; Fenn & Lochsa historic ranger stations; DeVoto Grove; Lolo Pass Visitor Center; Hells Gate and Dworshak State Parks. Other attractions include summer community festivals & powwows.

Camping

Campgrounds at Lewiston, Myrtle, Orofino, Kamiah, Kooskia, Grangeville, and Lowell. Forest Service and BLM campsites along the Clearwater and Lochsa rivers.

Services

Full services in Lewiston, Orofino, Kamiah, Kooskia, Grangeville; partial services at Stites, Syringa, Lowell, and Powell. Rest areas at Lenore and Lolo Pass.

Contacts

North Central Idaho Travel Association (877) 364-3246 or www.northcentralidaho.info; Nez Perce National Historical Park (208) 843-2261 or www.nps.gov/nepe; Chambers of Commerce: Lewiston (208) 743-3531; Orofino (208) 476-4335; Kamiah (208) 935-2290; Kooskia (208) 926-4362; Grangeville (208) 983-0460; Clearwater National Forest (208) 476-4541; Nez Perce National Forest (208) 983-1950; Nez Perce Tribe (208) 843-2253 or www.nezperce.org.



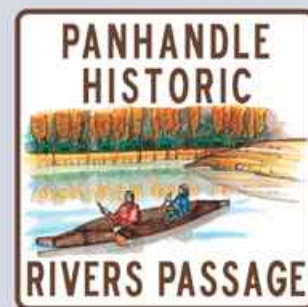
Photo by Pauline Davis ©

Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage



The Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage begins at the Washington state line and follows the northern shore of the Pend Oreille River through Oldtown, Priest River, and ends in Sandpoint. This byway is the southern leg of the International Selkirk Loop which extends into Washington on the west and heads into British Columbia on the Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway from Sandpoint on the east.

Enjoy driving along miles of soothing river scenery that reflects the pastoral beauty of surrounding forests and farms. Pull over and be entertained by varying seasonal wildlife, birds of prey, and waterfowl; or stop and absorb the history of northern Idaho in three different museums along the byway. This history extends back to the ice age and the Great Missoula Floods. Convenient access to the Pend Oreille River at four recreation areas provides opportunities to swim or boat along spacious, gently-flowing waters. Winter recreation includes snow sports on state and federal lands, ice fishing when it is cold enough, and downhill skiing at Schweitzer.



Location

Begins at the Washington state line and follows U.S. 2 to Sandpoint.

Length

28.5 miles. Allow 40 minutes.

Roadway

U.S. 2 is a two-lane road with no passing lanes. It can be icy during winter months.

When to see it

Year around. Eagles in the winter, osprey in the summer, waterfowl in the spring and fall. Nature's palette of vegetation colors are particularly abundant in spring and fall.

Special attractions

Pend Oreille and Priest Rivers; Panhandle National Forest; Seneacquoten Interpretive Site; Rotary Park in Oldtown; Priest River Wildlife Area; Albeni Falls Dam Visitor Center; three historical museums; and Priest River's historic downtown.

Camping

"Mudhole" Recreation Area at Priest River and Riley Creek Recreation Area eight miles further west at Laclede; numerous other camping sites within area including beautiful Priest Lake.

Services

Full services in Priest River, Sandpoint, and Oldtown/Newport.

Contacts

Priest River Chamber of Commerce: (208) 448-2721, www.priestriver.org; Sandpoint Visitors Center: (800) 800-2106; Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: (208) 263-0887, www.sandpointonline.com, www.sandpointchamber.com; Albeni Falls Dam Visitors Center: (208) 437-3133; USFS Ranger Station in Sandpoint: (208) 263-5111; USFS Ranger Station at Priest Lake (208) 443-2562; International Selkirk Loop: (888) 823-2626, www.selkirkloop.org.



Photo by Leland Howard © IdahoStockImages.com

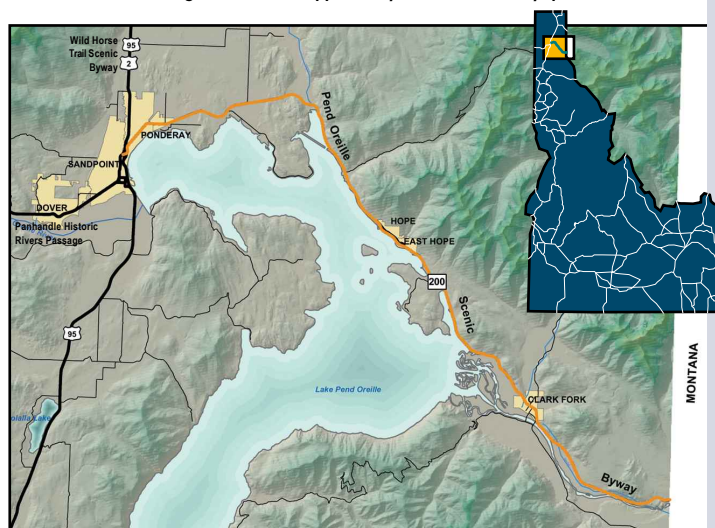
Pend Oreille Scenic Byway



The Pend Oreille (pon-der-ay) Scenic Byway offers travelers some of Idaho's most spectacular water views. Beginning at the intersection with U.S. 95, Idaho 200 meanders eastward to the Montana state line across farmlands, through river deltas, and along the rocky northern shores of Lake Pend Oreille, all sculpted by the massive force of glaciers and the floodwaters of Glacial Lake Missoula. Pullouts along the byway allow visitors to stop and enjoy breathtaking vistas of mountainous horizons framing miles of open water.

Four-season recreational opportunities begin along the shores of the lake and reach across the vast regions of national forest overlooking the Pend Oreille Scenic Byway. Whether you are inclined to swim or fish, boat or golf, hunt or hike mountain trails, alpine ski or snowmobile, water ski or bird watch — each of our distinctive four seasons offers an outstanding recreational opportunity for almost every person who enjoys the outdoors.

Visitors can find varying accommodations from unimproved mountain campsites to maintained shoreline campgrounds to recreational vehicles parks along the water or choose from lakefront resorts or motels.



Pend Oreille Scenic Byway

Location

Begins at U.S. 95 north of Sandpoint and follows Idaho 200 to the Montana state line.

Length

33.4 miles. Allow 1.5 hours to enjoy the scenery and interpretive information.

Roadway

Idaho 200 is a two-lane road with no passing lanes, but numerous scenic turnouts. Winter driving conditions require drivers to pay attention.

When to see it

Year around. Winter scenes can be magnificent, spring and fall colors are dramatic.

Special attractions

Lake Pend Oreille; Clark Fork River and delta; roadside interpretive exhibits; Schweitzer Ski Area; Panhandle National Forests' seasonal trails and roads; and four seasons of recreational opportunities.

Camping

Samowen Campground on the lake, maintained and primitive spots in the Panhandle National Forest, and numerous private spots in the area.

Services

Full services in Clark Fork, Ponderay, and Sandpoint; partial services in Hope.

Contacts

Hope-Clark Fork Chamber of Commerce: (208) 266-1552, www.pobyway.org, hopechamber@verizon.net;
Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: (800) 800-2106;
Sandpoint Ranger District: (208) 263-5111.



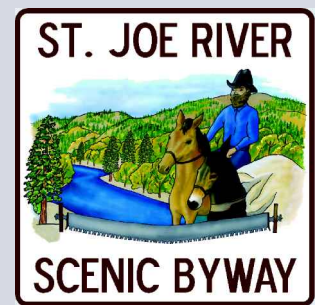
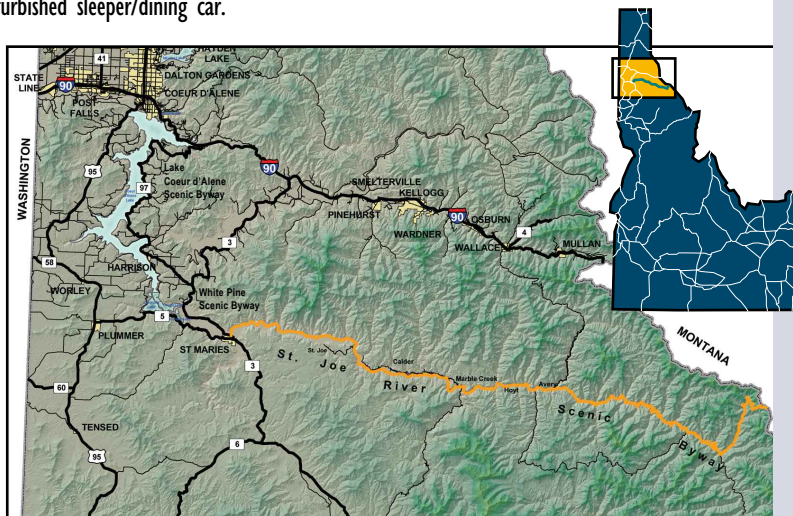
Photo by Pete and Helen Carter ©

St. Joe River Scenic Byway

Your journey begins at the town of St. Maries where tug boats still ply the water. East you travel along the shadowy St. Joe River so named for the towering Cottonwoods which adorn the shore lines. Among these trees are bald eagles and osprey, which use the trees as nesting sites and perches where they launch themselves to pick up dinner from the feast provided by “The Joe.” As you travel the first half of the byway the river is deep and still with picturesque mountain landscapes that are captured on the watery canvas.

At St. Joe City “The Joe” becomes shallower and starts to talk to you as it flows through rapids. The water is faster here and clear, so clear that you can see the trout that call it home. “The Joe” is one of Idaho’s premier blue ribbon trout fisheries where you can catch Dolly Vardins, rainbow, cutthroat and other species of trout. All along the river adventure awaits you, at Marble Creek interpretive center tour the logging display, in Avery stop in and see the trout pond, where rainbow trout rise to your offerings. Visit the historic railroad depot and the refurbished sleeper/dining car.

Wildlife abounds along the river’s edge, where deer, elk, moose and bear can be seen. The St. Joe River Scenic Byway is truly a recreational treasure, with something for everyone.



Location

From St. Maries at the junction of Idaho 3 and Forest Hwy 50 (FS 50), east along the St. Joe River for 75 miles. At the junction with Road 218, FS 50 heads north (left) and climbs 14 miles to the Idaho-Montana border.

Length

89 miles. Allow 2.5 to 3 hours one way.

Roadway

Two-lane paved road with numerous pull-outs and points of interest along the way.

When to see it

Year around from St. Maries to Avery (47 miles). The 42 miles from Avery to the Idaho border is usually open from May through November. During the winter, this section is a snowmobile route.

Special attractions

Falls Creek waterfall; Marble Creek historic site and picnic area; Avery Ranger Station; Avery Museum; Upper Landing Picnic area; Idaho Panhandle National Forest; St. Joe Wild and Scenic River; breathtaking scenery; blue ribbon fishery; white water rafting; and the Hiawatha Rails to Trails is near by.

Camping

Private facilities are available in and around St. Maries and Avery; Shadowy St. Joe Campground and Huckleberry Campground are located along the lower, slower moving St. Joe River; Pack Saddle; Turner Tin Can and Conrad Crossings campgrounds are upstream from Avery along the Wild and Scenic St. Joe; and numerous undeveloped campsites along the river.

Services

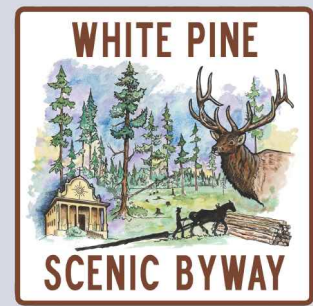
Full services are available in St. Maries and Avery, and partial services in Calder.

Contacts

St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: (208) 245-3563, www.stmarieschamber.org; St. Joe Ranger District, St. Maries Office: (208) 245-2531, Avery Office: (208) 245-4517, www.fs.fed.us; Bureau of Land Management: www.blm.gov.



Photo by Bill Mullins © IdahoStockImages.com



Location

From the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 3, south on Idaho 3 to Idaho 6, then southwest to U.S. 95 at Potlatch.

Length

82.8 miles. Allow 2 hours.

Roadway

Idaho 3 and Idaho 6 are both two-lane roads with no passing lanes.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Old Mission State Park; Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area; St. Joe National Forest; Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area ("Park and Ski" cross country area); Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes; Potlatch historic walking tours; Mullan Trail Park, Steam Donkey, 1910 Fire Memorial and historical murals in St. Maries.

Camping

Laird Park, Giant White Pine Park north of Harvard, Pines RV and Camping in Harvard; Scenic 6 RV Park in Potlatch; Heyburn State Park, Benewah County Fairgrounds, Shady River RV Park in or near St. Maries.

Services

Full services in St. Maries; partial services in Potlatch.

Contacts

St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: (208) 245-3563, www.stmarieschamber.org; Idaho Panhandle National Forest: (208) 245-2531; Old Mission State Park: (208) 682-3814; Potlatch City Hall: (208) 875-0708, potlatchidaho.org; Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce: (208) 664-3194 or (877) 782-9232, info@coeurdalene.org, www.coeurdalene.org.

White Pine Scenic Byway

The White Pine Scenic Byway begins on Idaho 3 at Interstate 90 near Cataldo, home to Old Mission of the Sacred Heart. Built in the mid-1800's, the mission itself is the oldest building still standing in Idaho; travelers can also visit the nearby Parish House and two historic cemeteries on the grounds, and enjoy the visitor center, walking trails, and picnic areas.

From Cataldo, the White Pine Scenic Byway passes through the lush forests of Idaho's timber country and the numerous lakes and marshlands of the lower Coeur d'Alene River to the town of St. Maries, the Hughes House Museum, and other attractions. The byway then crosses the picturesque St. Maries and St. Joe rivers, the latter of which is the highest navigable river in the world.

The route continues on Idaho 6, meandering south through the town of Emida, and the St. Joe National Forest which boasts the largest stand of White Pine in the country. The byway winds through rolling hills of the Palouse region to the historic town of Potlatch, once site of the largest white pine lumber mill in the world.

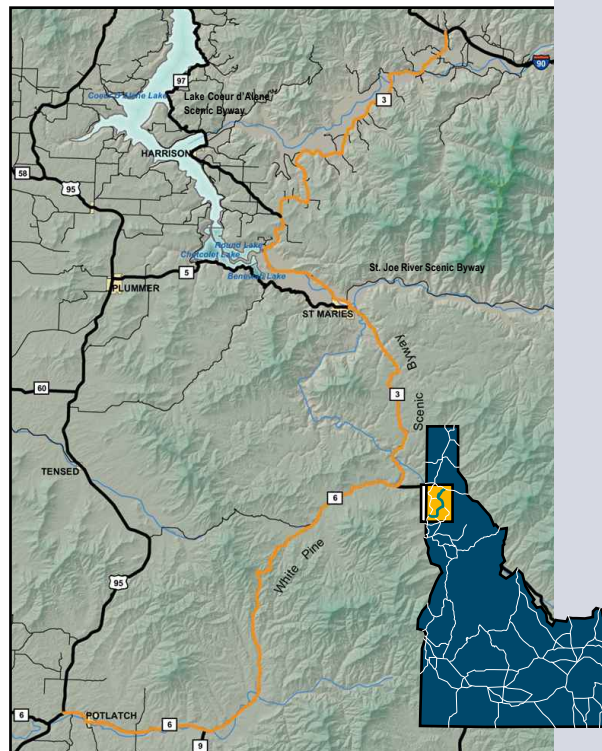




Photo by Aaron Drew

Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway

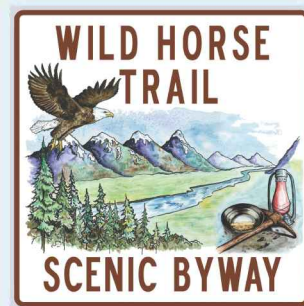
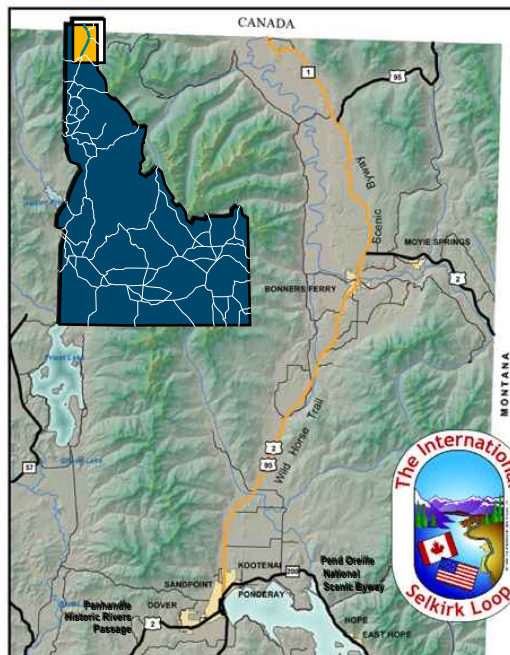


The Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway is part of the International Selkirk Loop, designated North America's only International Scenic Byway. The Byway starts on the northwestern shores of Lake Pend Oreille in the resort community of Sandpoint. Heading north along the eastern side of the Selkirk Mountains the roadway follows the Kootenai Tribe's historic path to fishing grounds at Lake Pend Oreille. In 1808 the first white explorer David Thompson also utilized this trail. The "Wild Horse Trail" became more than a path in 1863 when gold was discovered in "Wild Horse Creek," 120 miles to the north of Bonners Ferry Idaho in British Columbia. There was a large movement of men and pack animals along the "Wild Horse Trail" until the gold rush ceased circa 1880.

Upon arrival of the Northern Pacific railroad to this region David Thompson's old route became a main freight line for the railroad.

Just south of Bonners Ferry a stunning wide glacial valley comes into view. The rich soil deposits left behind as the glaciers receded formed fertile lands which even today support a wide variety of agriculture throughout the Kootenai Valley.

The Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge west of Bonners Ferry and the McArthur Lake Wildlife Management area offers a wealth of recreational opportunities including wildlife viewing, bird watching and hiking trails. There are six major access roads leading into the Selkirk Mountains onto Panhandle National Forest lands where recreational opportunities for hiking, fishing, camping, Nordic skiing and snowmobiling can be enjoyed.



Location

Begins on U.S. 95 in downtown Sandpoint and follows U.S. 95 north through Bonners Ferry to the junction of U.S. 95 and Idaho 1, then proceeds north on Idaho 1 to the International Border at Porthill.

Length

48.2 miles from Sandpoint to junction of U.S. 95/Idaho 1, 11 miles to the International Border at Porthill. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

U.S. 95 is predominantly a 2-lane road with 4 lanes starting 2 miles north of Sandpoint for 5 miles. There is a half-mile passing lane north of McArthur Lake traveling north, a 1-mile passing lane northbound south of Bonners Ferry, a 2-mile southbound passing lane south of Bonners Ferry, and a 4-lane bypass at Bonners Ferry continues north for 3 miles.

When to see it

Year around. Four full, distinct seasons with activities and events available every month. Fall colors are especially dramatic.

Special attractions

Lake Pend Oreille; Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge; Panhandle National Forest; McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor; Kootenai Sturgeon Hatchery; Historic Bonners Ferry and Kootenai River.

Camping

Privately owned campgrounds in and around Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry. USFS camping at Smith Lake, 5 miles north of Bonners Ferry, seven sites, no fee. Other USFS camping near by at Meadow Creek, Robinson Lake, Copper Creek and Samowen.

Services

Full services in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry.

Contacts

Sandpoint Visitor Center: (800) 800-2106; Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: (208) 263-0887, www.sandpointchamber.org; Greater Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center: (208) 267-5922, www.bonnersferrychamber.com; International Selkirk Loop: (888) 823-2626, www.selkirkloop.org; Sandpoint Ranger District: (208) 263-5111; Bonners Ferry Ranger District: (208) 267-5561, www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/; US Customs at Porthill: (208) 267-5309; Idaho Department of Lands: (208) 267-5577 or (208) 263-5104.

See Selkirk Loop map on page 8.



Photo courtesy of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

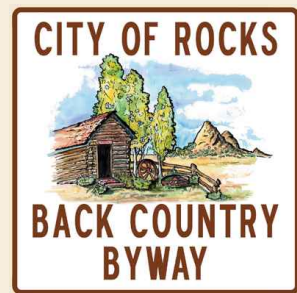
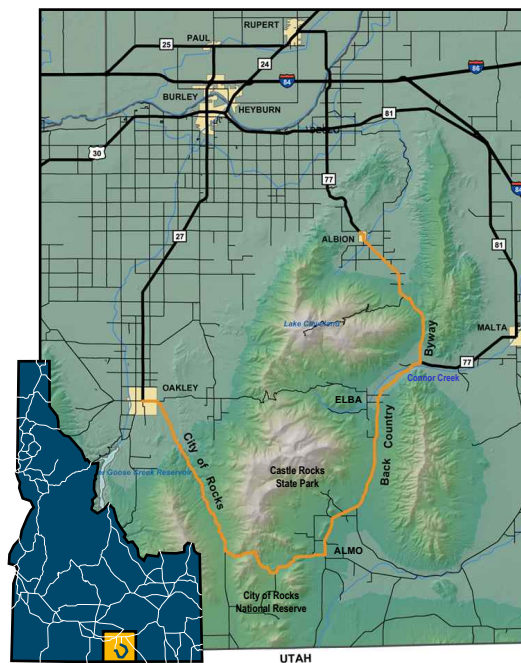
City of Rocks Back Country Byway

Forming a 49-mile necklace around the Albion Mountain Range, the City of Rocks Back Country Byway traces a rural landscape steeped in history and geological significance.

Beginning in Albion on Idaho 77, the byway traverses the outskirts of the Pomerelle Ski Area and Lake Cleveland Recreation Area as it heads south.

At the base of the byway's necklace lies its jewel, the City of Rocks National Reserve, where more than 700 challenging climbs rival Yosemite National Park and make it a favorite spot among technical rock climbers worldwide. The visitor center in Almo provides travel information, and a series of wayside exhibits through the park interpret the historic California Trail migration from 1843 through 1869.

Heading north, the last leg of the byway ends in historic Oakley; the entire town, in fact, is on the National Register of Historic Places and features the state's largest concentration of old stone and wood-framed buildings.



Location

The route begins along Idaho 77 at Albion south to the Connor Creek Junction, and continues south through Elba and Almo and the scenic City of Rocks National Reserve. From the Reserve, the route follows Birch Creek to the City of Oakley and the Oakley Historic District where it joins Idaho 27.

Length

49 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

Paved secondary highway from Albion to Connor Creek Junction. Connor Creek to Almo is a narrow winding paved road, and from Almo to Oakley the road is graveled until it joins Idaho 27 at Oakley.

When to see it

Best weather to travel is April to November. Call (208) 824-5519 for road conditions.

Special attractions

The beautiful Albion Valley, including Pomerelle Ski Area and Lake Cleveland Recreation Area; Castle Rocks State Park; City of Rocks National Reserve; Oakley Historic District.

Camping

Howell Canyon and City of Rocks with R.V. parks in Oakley, and at the I-84 Interchange at the Snake River.

Services

Full services in Burley; food and lodging in Albion; partial services in Oakley and Almo.

Contacts

City of Rocks National Reserve: (208) 824-5519; Sawtooth National Forest: (208) 678-0430; Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce: (208) 679-4793, mcidcham@cyberhighway.net and Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov, www.minicassiachamber.org; www.rideidaho.com; or www.nps.gov/ciro.



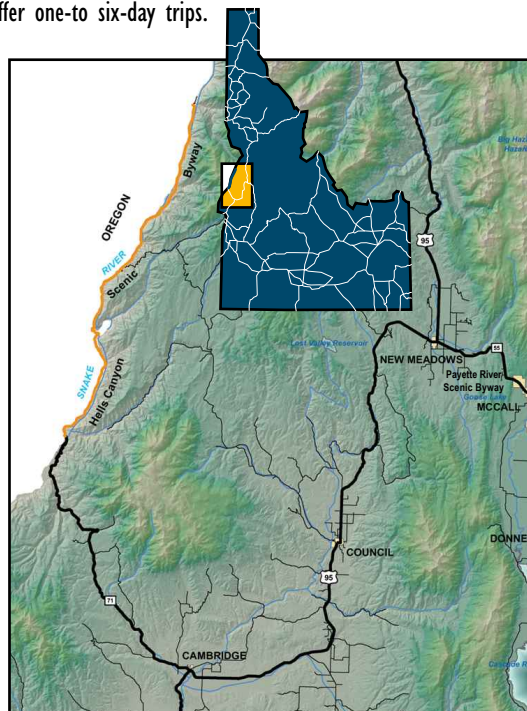
Photo by Pauline Davis ©

Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

The Hells Canyon Scenic Byway winds its way along the east side of this massive rift that separates Idaho from neighboring Oregon. While the view from the road is breathtaking, a guided float trip or jet boat tour of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area is a must. Towering cliffs of black and green basalt hang so high above the Snake River and its sandy beaches that boaters strain their necks to see these places. Outfitters offer one-to six-day trips.

Look for wildlife including mountain goats, Big Horn sheep, bald eagles and great fishing. During the summer months, visit the Hells Canyon Creek Visitors Center just below Hells Canyon Dam, the entrance to the wild and scenic part of the Snake River.

Today, walls of the canyon are like a museum, where pictographs and petroglyphs display evidence of the Indians' early settlements. The surrounding area was the home of Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce Indians. Other tribes, including the Shoshone, Bannock, North Paiute and Cayuse Indians, were frequent visitors to the area. These tribes were drawn to the region by relatively mild winters, lush foliage and plentiful wildlife.



Location

Hells Canyon Road from Oxbow Bridge near Copperfield, Oregon, north along the Idaho side of the Snake River to Hells Canyon Dam.

Length

22 miles. Allow 3 hours round trip from Cambridge.

Roadway

Hells Canyon Road is a narrow, winding road with several steep grades. It is owned and maintained all year by Idaho Power Corporation.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; guided float and jet boat trips on the Snake River; guided tours of Hells Canyon Dam; Hells Canyon Creek Visitors Center.

Camping

Copperfield Park, Hells Canyon Park, Big Bar.

Services

Partial services 2.5 miles west of Copperfield. Full services in Cambridge.

Contacts

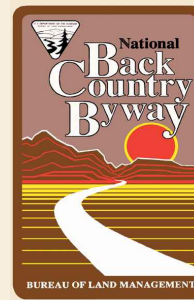
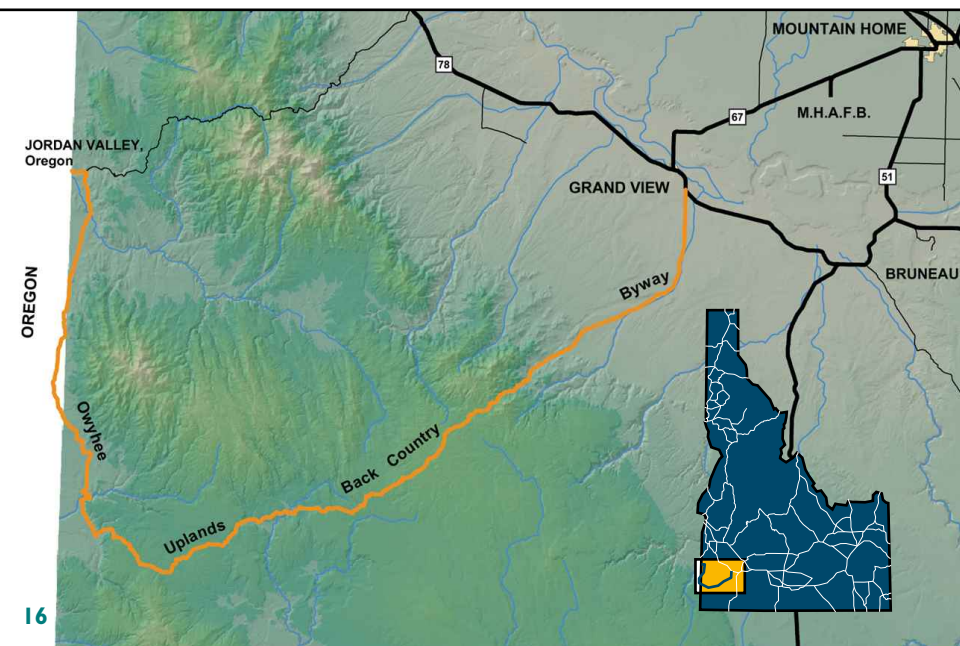
Payette National Forest: (208) 549-4200; Idaho Power Company: (800) 422-3143; Hells Canyon National Recreation Area: (208) 628-3916, www.tcfm.org/tctour/parks/HellsCanyon; Hells Canyon Creek Visitor Center: (541) 785-3395 (Available during summer months).



Photo by Steve Bly © IdahoStockImages.com

Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway

Starting through hay meadows, rolling hills and the winding course of Jordan Creek, you'll soon climb into the mountains and gnarled stands of juniper woodlands. Numerous mountain ranges frame the picturesque desert, with Idaho's Owyhees rising to the north. From expanses of sagebrush and wildflowers, to rough, rock-walled rivers and streams, the Owyhee Uplands represent what many people believe the real West is all about.



Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway

Location

The loop begins 80 miles southwest of Boise. It can be reached from the west through Jordan Valley, Oregon, and from the east, on Idaho 78 near Grand View, Idaho.

Length

101 miles. From Boise, it is an all-day trip.

Roadway

Mostly one and one-half lanes of graveled road.

When to see it

The byway is usually impassable from late November through March because of snow. Also, precipitation can make the road treacherously slick. The best times of year to drive the byway are early summer and fall.

Special attractions

Photographers can't resist shooting from an overlook point above the North Fork gorge. The mahogany woodlands offer sweeping views, with the Owyhee Mountains as a backdrop.

Camping

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has one primitive campground, the North Fork Recreation Site, about 30 miles east of Jordan Valley.

Services

Limited services in Jordan Valley, Grand View and Bruneau; no services along the byway.

Contacts

Lower Snake River District, Bureau of Land Management:
(208) 384-3300.



Photo by Jay Krajic © IdahoStockImages.com

Payette River Scenic Byway

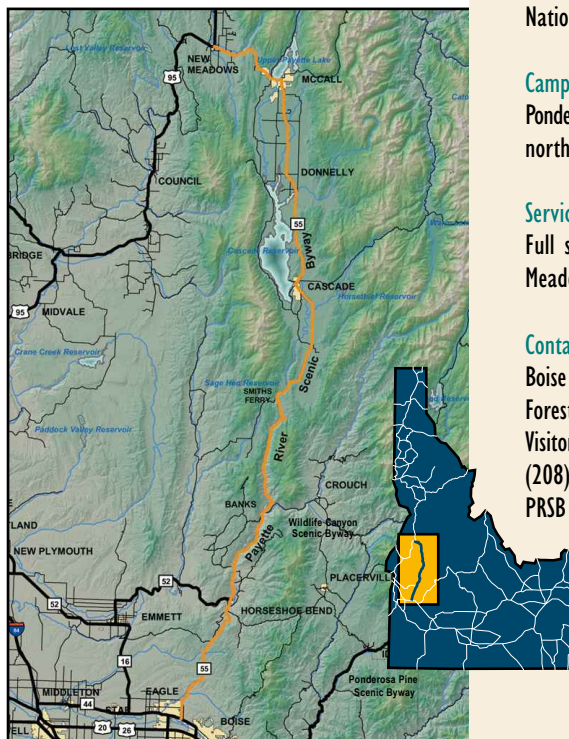


From the junction of Idaho 44 and Idaho 55 west of Idaho's capital city of Boise, this byway heads north on Idaho 55 to Horseshoe Bend where it meets the Payette River. From there, it passes through the Boise and Payette National Forests and the popular resort towns of Cascade and McCall before reaching the northern end of the byway at New Meadows.

For motorists, it can be a distracting drive as the river crashes and tumbles its way over the rocks through this narrow river valley. Depending on where you are on the river, it can be a mild ripple or a wild torrent. There are occasional pull-offs where you can view the wilder parts and treat your senses to the sight, sound, smell, and rhythm of Idaho's famous whitewater.

Along this byway are some great locations for camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and guided float trips. Outfitters offer river excursions that range from half-day to three-day outings in rafts or kayaks.

The mountain resort town of McCall sits next to Payette Lake and is a great year-round getaway. It is particularly famous for the annual Winter Carnival, when the streets are lined with ice sculptures.



Payette River Scenic Byway



Location

From the junction of U.S. 95 at New Meadows along Idaho 55 south to Idaho 44 west of Boise.

Length

111.7 miles. Allow 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Roadway

Narrow, winding, two-lane road with occasional passing lanes and slow vehicle turnouts.

When to see it

Year around. The McCall Winter Carnival takes place in late January or early February.

Special attractions

Guided float trips on the Payette River; Cascade Reservoir; snowmobiling and cross-country skiing at Smiths Ferry; Ponderosa State Park on Payette Lake; Brundage Mountain Ski Area; Boise and Payette National Forests.

Camping

Ponderosa State Park, Cascade Reservoir, several campsites north of Banks area and north of McCall area.

Services

Full services in Boise, Cascade, Donnelly, McCall, New Meadows; partial services in Horseshoe Bend.

Contacts

Boise National Forest: (208) 373-4007; Payette National Forest: (208) 634-0700, www.mccall.net/pnf/; McCall Visitors Bureau: (208) 634-7631; Ponderosa State Park: (208) 634-2164. For more byway information go to: PRSB@sageidaho.com.



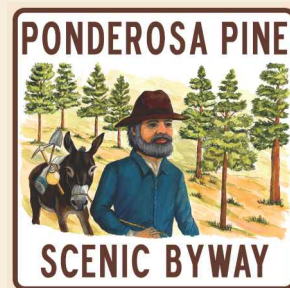
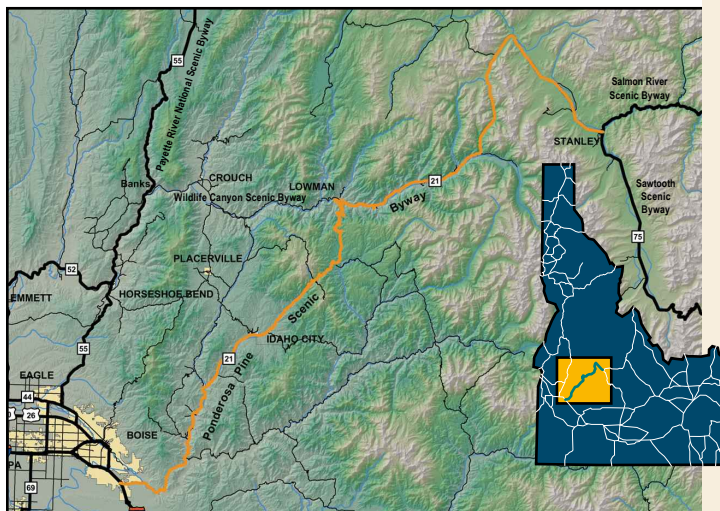
Photo by Pauline Davis ©

Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway

The Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway starts in Boise. It follows Idaho 21 north to the historic mining town of Idaho City, where you can still pan for gold in a nearby stream bed. Campgrounds and fishing opportunities dot the route from Idaho City to Lowman along the South Fork of the Payette River, as you slowly climb along the byway's northeasterly route.

At the cutoff road to Grandjean, the roadway leaves the Payette River and squeezes between two of Idaho's wilderness areas. On the right, the Sawtooth Wilderness and its 217,000 pristine acres of coniferous forest lands and wilderness lakes. To the left, the Salmon-Challis National Forest, entryway to the 2.3-million-acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, with more contiguous acres of roadless wilderness than anywhere else in the lower 48 states.

From Banner Summit, one of Idaho's highest at 7,056 feet, you begin a descent into the town of Stanley. As the roadway grooves through the steep foothills and thick forest, you can catch glimpses of the Sawtooth Mountains ahead; finally, as you drop into Stanley, they come into full, magnificent view.



Location

From Boise on Idaho 21 northeast to the junction of Idaho 75 at Stanley.

Length

130.9 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway

A narrow, winding road with some steep grades. Two lanes with some passing lanes. There usually is a snow floor north of Lowman during winter. Severe avalanche conditions exist in the Banner Summit area and road closures can be frequent. Check conditions before traveling in winter!

When to see it

Year around. May be closed in winter.

Special attractions

Lucky Peak and Arrow Rock Reservoirs; Lucky Peak State Park; Idaho City; Sawtooth Wilderness; Granite Creek Interpretive Trail; Lowman Fire Interpretive Signs; Kirkham Hot Springs; Stanley Lake; Boise, Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth National Forests; Forest Service/BLM Visitor Information Center in Boise, and the Idaho City, Lowman, and Stanley Ranger Stations.

Camping

There are five campgrounds between the Idaho City area and Crooked River Road turn off (Milepost 57); four campgrounds between Lowman and the Grandjean turn off (Milepost 94); and five campgrounds between Banner Summit (Milepost 105) and Stanley.

Services

Full services in Boise, Idaho City, Lowman and Stanley.

Contacts

Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: (208) 774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Boise National Forest: (208) 373-4007; www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise; info@bnf.org; Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Sawtooth NRA: (208) 727-5013; audio tape tours available from Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation: (208) 334-4199.

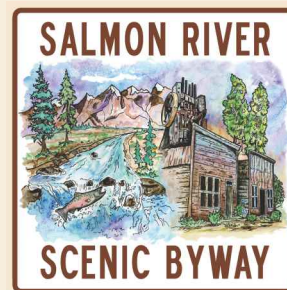
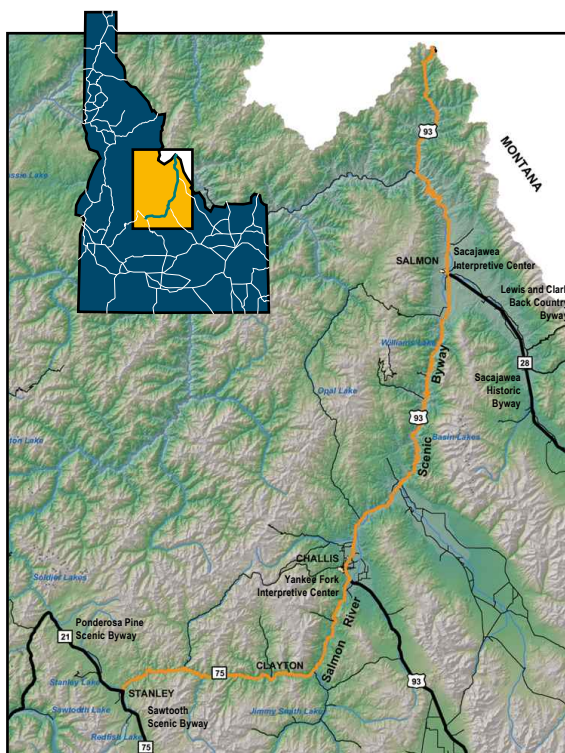


Photo by Steve Bly © iStockphoto.com

Salmon River Scenic Byway

The northern end of the Salmon River Scenic Byway begins on the Montana border at the Lost Trail Pass (elevation 6,995 feet). Lewis and Clark came this way in 1805, and the spectacular view from this vantage point has changed little since that famous exploration of the West two centuries ago. The route follows the Salmon River — also called the River of No Return — through the Salmon-Challis National Forest through the historic city of Salmon. The river and its forks serve as important natural pathways into Idaho's rugged back country. The deer, elk, and moose that often graze along the hills and meadows that line this road provide a glimpse of the wild country beyond.

Along the way, the town of Challis and the Land of the Yankee Fork Historic Area are just two points of interest, the latter being among Idaho's most famous mining areas. And as you head southwest along Idaho 75 toward Stanley, you'll begin to see glimpses of the majestic Sawtooth Mountains ahead before beholding their full splendor as you drop into town.



Location

From the Montana state line south on U.S. 93 to Challis, then west to Stanley on Idaho 75.

Length

161.7 miles. Allow 3.5 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane road with no passing lanes and some 25-mph curves.

When to see it

Best weather for travel is April to November, although access to the back country is best from July to October.

Special attractions

Sacajawea Interpretive Center; Salmon spawning beds at Indian Riffles; Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center; Tower Rock; Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo) National Historic Trail; Salmon Wild & Scenic River; Middle Fork Salmon Wild & Scenic River; Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness; Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth National Forests; natural hot springs and ghost towns.

Camping

Salmon River, Riverside, Mormon Bend, Basin Creek, Upper and Lower O'Brien, Holman Creek, East Fork, Bayhorse, Spring Gulch, Cottonwood, Shoup Bridge, Tower Rock, Twin Creek.

Services

Full services in Stanley, Challis, Salmon, North Fork; partial services in Clayton, Gibbonsville.

Contacts

Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: (800) 727-2540, info@salmonchamber.com, www.salmonchamber.com, www.salmonbyway.com; Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: (208) 774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Sawtooth National Recreation Area: (208) 727-5013; Salmon-Challis National Forests: (208) 756-5100; www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc; Yankee Fork Ranger District: (208) 838-3300; Challis Ranger District: (208) 879-4100; North Fork Ranger District: (208) 865-2700; Salmon District Bureau of Land Management: (208) 756-5400; Audio tape tours available for Stanley to Challis & Challis to Salmon.



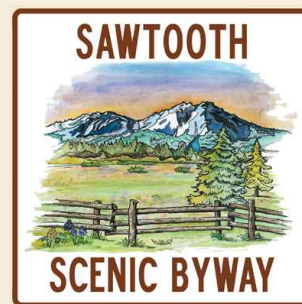
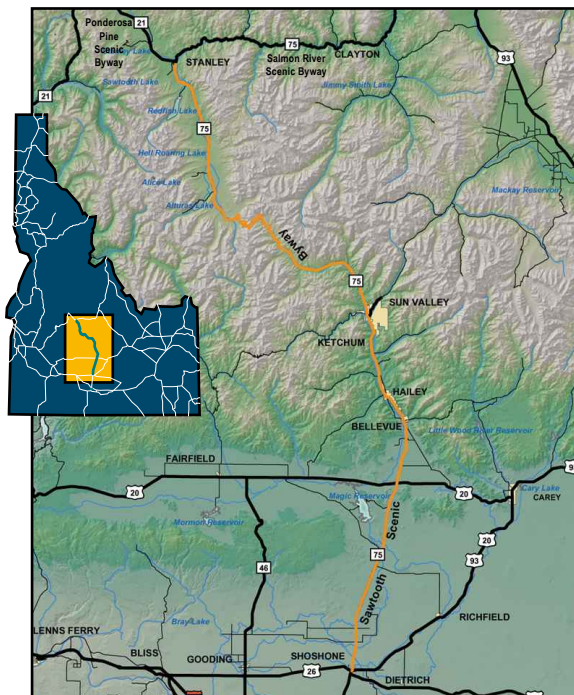
Photo by Pauline Davis ©

Sawtooth Scenic Byway

The Sawtooth Scenic Byway has the distinction of being the 100th National Forest Scenic Byway. Beginning in Shoshone, the southern leg of the byway features the new Black Magic Canyon geological attraction. The route then rolls north through fertile agricultural land to the resort towns of Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley.

From there, the road carves its way through the Boulder Mountains to Galena Pass, showcasing the ridge of the Sawtooth Mountains. Beyond, the rocks and woodlands of the rugged Sawtooth National Recreation Area are packed with rivers, streams, and 300 alpine lakes, providing top-notch venues for a variety of year-round activities. Wildlife watchers should stay alert; the 756,000-acre recreational area is home to many species of wildlife, including pronghorn antelope, deer, elk, bear and wolves.

The northern tip of the byway terminates in Stanley, where the Sawtooth meets the Ponderosa Pine and Salmon River Scenic Byways. So no matter which way you drive in or out, you're in for a treat.



Location

Idaho 75 north to Stanley from Shoshone.

Length

115.7 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane road with some passing lanes. The 15-mile section over Galena Summit is winding with 5 to 6 percent grades. Winter weather can be severe. Check conditions before traveling.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Sawtooth National Recreation Area; Redfish Lake; world-famous Sun Valley resort.

Camping

Wood River, Easley Hot Springs, Alturas Lake and Redfish Lake.

Services

Full services in Shoshone, Hailey, Ketchum, Sun Valley, Stanley; partial services in Obsidian; rest area on U.S. 20 at the junction with Idaho 75.

Contacts

Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters: (208) 727-5013, audio tape tour available for Stanley to Ketchum route; Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: (208) 774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Sun Valley/Ketchum Chamber of Commerce: (800) 634-3347, www.visitsunvalley.com; Sawtooth National Forest: (208) 737-3200, www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth/; Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Redfish Lake Visitor Center (summer only): (208) 774-3376.



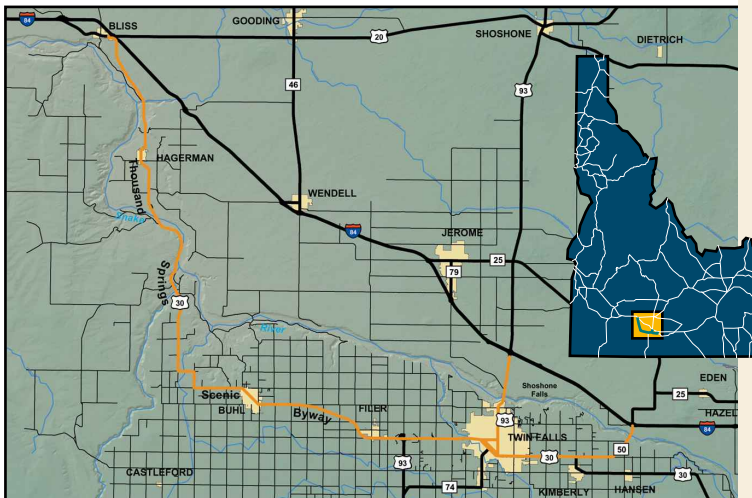
Photo by Pauline Davis ©

Thousand Springs Scenic Byway

From the Snake River Plain Aquifer, an abundance of natural springs gush from the steep canyon walls and cascade into the river below. In fact, the aquifer creeps through an area of several thousand square miles under southern Idaho's porous volcanic rock before emerging from the springs in the cliffs of the Snake River Canyon. This pure, clean, oxygenated water maintains a constant temperature of 58 degrees F., ideal conditions for trout. The hatcheries located along the 30-mile stretch of the Snake River in the Hagerman Valley raise about 70 percent of the trout produced in the United States.

Today, hydroelectric and irrigation projects divert some of the water. So while you won't see literally a "thousand springs" along the route, it is nevertheless an impressive sight. Boat tours and dinner cruises available in the Hagerman area allow visitors to get up-close-and-personal with some of the Thousand Springs along a beautiful stretch of the Snake River.

In Twin Falls visit Shoshone Falls. Surrounded by amazing canyon vistas, Shoshone Falls tumbles 212 feet to the mighty Snake River below. Shoshone Falls is best viewed in the early spring of high run-off years before water is put to work irrigating the area's fertile farmland. Take advantage of the new Centennial Trail that will take you to the Evel Knievel jumpsite or enjoy boating, water-skiing, fishing and swimming in neighboring Dierkes Lake.



Location

Begins at Interstate 84 near Bliss and follows U.S. 30 southeast through Twin Falls to Idaho 50, then north on Idaho 50 to I-84. Also U.S. 93 from Twin Falls north to I-84.

Length

67.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

U.S. 30 and Idaho 50 are two-lane roads with some passing lanes.

When to see it

Year around. The Hagerman Valley is known for its very mild winters. The best time to see Shoshone Falls and Twin Falls is in early spring.

Special attractions

Thousand Springs State Park Complex—a series of five parks; Hagerman Valley; the Snake River; Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument; Thousand Springs; National & State Fish Hatcheries; Wildlife Management Areas; Hot Springs; Historical Museums; Fish, Waterfowl & Bird viewing; Herrett Center Planetarium, Museum & Observatory in Twin Falls; Buhl's 8th Street Arts Center; Perrine Bridge & Canyon Rim Trail System; Shoshone Falls; and historic downtown Twin Falls.

Camping

Many private campgrounds along entire route.

Services

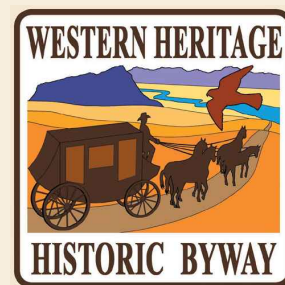
Full services in Bliss, Hagerman, Buhl, Kimberly, Twin Falls; partial services in Filer; rest areas south of Hagerman and visitor services at U.S. 93 at south end of Perrine Bridge.

Contacts

South Central Idaho Tourism: (800) 255-8946, www.visitsouthidaho.com; Hagerman Chamber of Commerce: (208) 837-9131, www.hagermanchamber.com; Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument: (208) 837-4793, www.nps.gov/hafo/home.htm; Thousand Springs Parks: (208) 837-4505, www.idahoparks.org; Buhl Chamber of Commerce: (208) 543-6682, www.buhlidaho.us; Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce: (208) 733-3974, www.twinfallschamber.com; Twin Falls County Parks and Recreation: (208) 734-9491, www.twinfallscounty.org.



Photo by Aldis Garayo © Mountain Post-Digital Imaging



Location

From Meridian, Idaho Highway 69 begins on the southbound road from exit 44 of I-84 and runs for 8 miles to East Avalon Avenue in Kuna. Turn south on Swan Falls Road and continue for 21 miles through the National Conservation Area (NCA) Birds of Prey to Swan Falls Dam.

Length

30 miles. Allow 1 hour for travel.

Roadway

Idaho 69 is a new 5-lane roadway to Kuna. Swan Falls Road is a 2-lane highway to the Swan Falls Dam. The final mile is a steep grade from the Snake River canyon rim to the dam site. Ice patches occur infrequently during winter weather.

When to see it

Year around. Birds of prey migrate in and are active March to late June.

Special Attractions

Kuna Visitor Center; Silver Trail at Indian Creek; Pioneer Cemetery; Initial Point; Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area; Dedication Point; Snake River Canyon Rim; Celebration Park; Swan Falls Dam Museum.

Camping

Camping is permitted downstream of Swan Falls Dam. Fishermen catch and release the mighty White Sturgeon. Channel Cat, Trout and Small Mouth Bass are plentiful as well.

Services

Full services in Kuna and Meridian. Kuna has a large grocery store and a variety of restaurants. Gasoline, full service mechanics and an auto parts store are also available.

Contacts

Kuna Futures: (208) 922-5158 or on the web at www.kunafutures.com. Kuna City Hall: (208) 922-5546; Kuna Chamber of Commerce: (208) 922-925; Bureau of Land Management: (208) 384-3300, www.id.blm.gov/bopnca/index.html; Peregrine Fund: (208) 362-3716, www.peregrinefund.org, tpf@peregrinefund.org.

Western Heritage Historic Byway

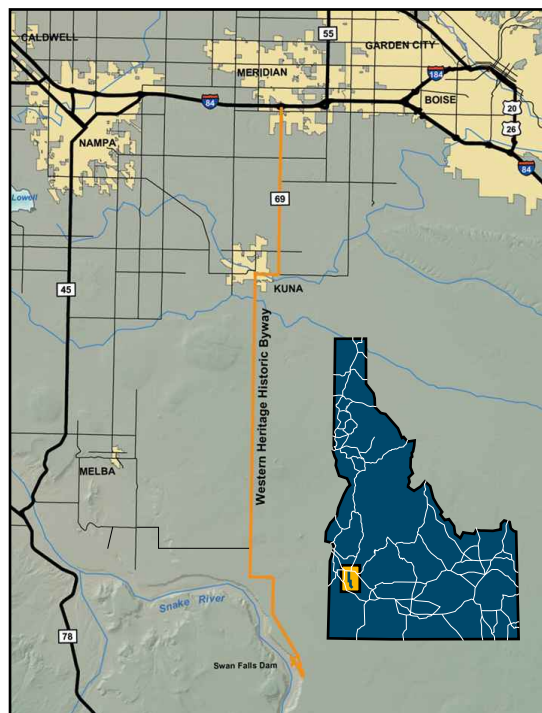


When President Lincoln turned his attention from the Civil War to proclaim Idaho a U.S. Territory, migration south from Fort Boise had already begun. Huge silver and gold discoveries had been made in the Owyhees. Emigrants trudged trails south and twenty-horse teams moved mine machinery over rattlesnake-infested volcanic rifts and down the steep sides of the Snake River Canyon.

Today, where trails once existed, a broad new highway passes through farmlands to Indian Creek and the town of Kuna. This historic place was first an Indian crossing—then a traveler's way-station—then the Shortline railhead, and finally, the growing farm community it is today.

Here, the byway turns south down Swan Falls Road. Just a few miles past Kuna, the scene moves abruptly from gold and green fields stitched together by silver irrigation canals, to rugged terrain unchanged since wild horse herds roamed and the great hordes of jack rabbits made settlers' lives miserable.

Now, thousands of folks visit the Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Initial Point, Snake River Canyon, Dedication Point, and Swan Falls Dam each year.

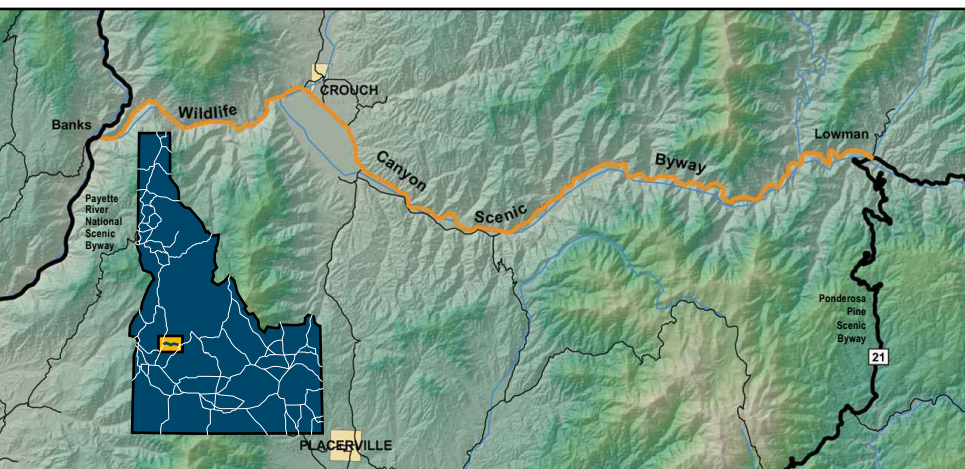




Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway

Herds of elk numbering near one hundred are not an unusual sight along the Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway, especially near the Danskin river access. Along with elk are mule deer, whitetail deer, chukars, wild turkeys, eagles, ospreys, cougars, bears, and wolves. Several campgrounds along the byway have natural hot springs for visitors to enjoy, as well as several trails for hiking and biking. Fishing and rafting are also enjoyable activities afforded along the route. In winter months, summer hiking trails provide miles of snowmobile and skiing adventure. You will also find motels, bed and breakfasts, a musical theatre, and even a golf course.

Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway joins two other scenic byways, forming a one-day drive from Boise. It can be accessed either by the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway on Idaho 21 or by the Payette River Scenic Byway on Idaho 55. Either route connects with this 33-mile trip through some of the most powerful canyon scenery offered in the state. A one day trip from Boise affords visitors a glimpse of the pioneering spirit of early Idaho and the awesome beauty of Idaho's wildlife and whitewater.



Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway



Location

The route travels along the Banks-Lowman road. It can be accessed either at Banks along Idaho 55 or at Lowman along Idaho 21. Either point of access brings the traveler back to a route leading to Boise.

Length

33 miles. Allow one hour. Allow 3 hours for the loop from Boise and back.

Roadway

This is a two-lane roadway with no passing lanes, but there are several turnouts for scenic viewing. The paved roadway is maintained year around, but often has a snow floor during winter months.

When to see it

There are year-round opportunities for wildlife viewing with exceptional elk viewing in winter and spring. In summer months this stretch of river is world renowned for rafting and kayaking.

Special Attractions

The winter range for elk is located within a five-mile section in the middle of the route near the Danskin river-access point. In 2005 two turnouts with wildlife viewing scopes were added. Large herds of elk and deer are found along this stretch of roadway during winter and spring months. The migratory and nesting route for Canada Geese is located here also. The South Fork of the Payette River offers world-class rafting and kayaking. Visitors are treated to the acrobatics of kayakers in class IV conditions along several points of the river. Commercial rafting companies offer trips down the river.

Camping

Hot Springs Campground, Pine Flats Campground, RV parks in Crouch and Garden Valley.

Contacts

Boise National Forest Garden Valley Ranger Station: (208) 462-3241; Garden Valley Chamber of Commerce: (208) 462-5003, www.gvchamber.org, gvchamber@gvchamber.org.



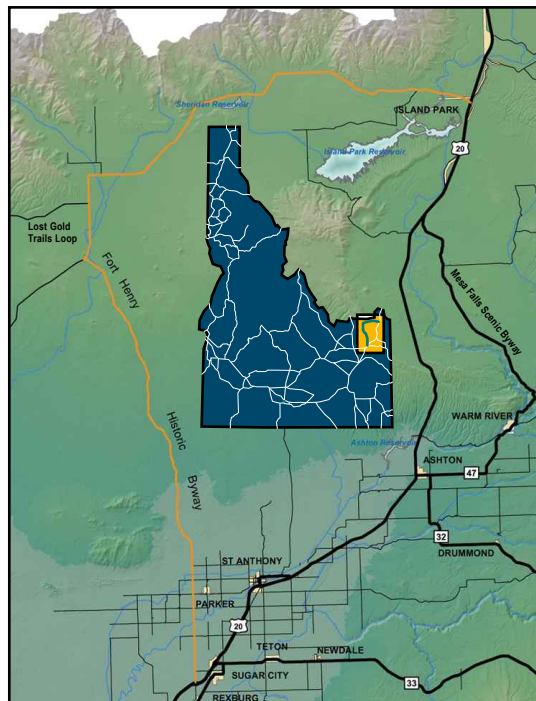
Fort Henry Historic Byway

See the Fort Henry Monument that marks the first European settlement in Idaho, from which this byway gets its name. A new monument replaces the old one. The old monument has been moved to the original Fort Henry Site in the adjoining field. It can be viewed from the new monument via telescope.

From the Monument the byway heads to the St. Anthony Sand Dunes. The dunes are part of the Sand Mountain Wilderness Study Area. This 20,000-acre area of sage and juniper is the winter range of 1,500 deer and 2,500 elk.

In April, Camas Meadows is host to returning Sand Hill Cranes. The area is home to Sage Grouse that gather each spring for a courtship ritual at their display ground. June brings forth fields of blue Camas Lilies. The Indians dug the Camas bulbs in the fall for food. Mountain streams are enticing for fisherman and campers. The mountains of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest lure both hikers and bicyclists.

The heritage of Clark and Fremont counties is very unique and full of early history of mountain men, Indians, miners, stagecoach lines, and ranching. A destination site on this byway is the Camas Meadow Battlefield where a skirmish occurred between the U.S. Calvary and the Nez Perce during their 1877 flight.



Fort Henry Historic Byway



Location

Begins at North Rexburg U.S. 20 Exit, onto Salem Highway, to St. Anthony Sand Dunes on Red Road and on to A-2 Road Junction. Continue on A-2 north, then east to Island Park and U.S. 20.

Length

81 miles. Allow 2 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane road, no mountain passes. North Rexburg exit to A-2 in Clark County to Kilgore Store exit paved. Only gravel road includes eleven miles Kilgore to Fremont County line, then paved to U.S. 20.

When to see it

Mid-April to Mid-November. Much of A-2 is not plowed in the winter and roads become snowmobile trails. Check with contacts below for byway access in winter.

Special attractions

Henry's Fork of the Snake River; Fort Henry Monument; St. Anthony Sand Dunes; wild game areas; historic ranches; Camas Meadows Battle Ground; Targhee-Caribou National Forest; and the Fremont County Sugar Company Site. Ask about summer/winter sports attractions throughout these areas.

Camping

Campsites at St. Anthony Sand Dunes, Kilgore town site, Eagle Ridge Ranch, Enchanted Forest in Shotgun, all privately owned. McCrae Bridge and Buttermilk campgrounds in the National Forest, Egin Lake Access Recreation Site.

Services

Full services: Rexburg, St. Anthony, and all communities on U.S. 20; partial services Kilgore Store (no gas).

Contacts

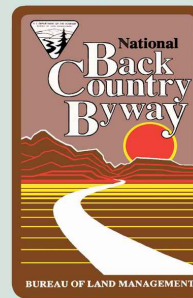
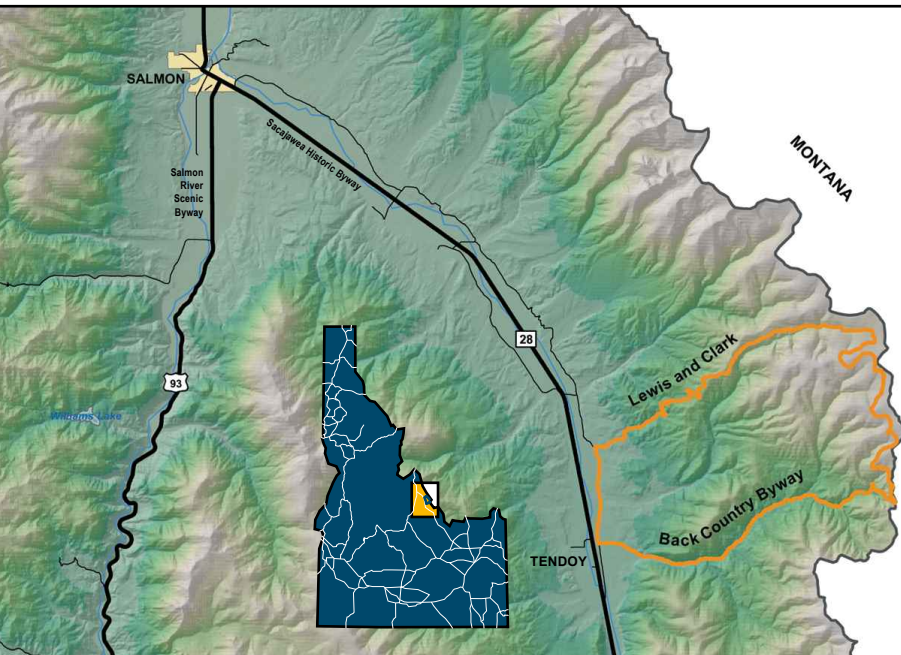
Ashton Ranger District (208) 652-7442; St. Anthony Visitor Center (208) 624-4870; St. Anthony City Offices (208) 624-3494; Island Park Ranger District (208) 558-7301; Fremont County Courthouse (208) 624-7332; Bureau of Land Management (208) 524-7500.



Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway

Two hundred years ago, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark stood high on a ridge-line that divides continental waters, and began the discovery of the Pacific Northwest. Stands of fir and pine trees, high-mountain meadows and rolling, jade-colored hills look much the same today as when the famous explorers journeyed to the crest of Lemhi Pass in 1805.

As you travel the Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway, you'll see where the expedition unfurled the flag of the United States for the first time west of the Rocky Mountains, as well as spectacular vistas of the Lemhi Pass, Salmon River, Rocky and Lost River mountain ranges, rolling sagebrush and alpine meadows, wildlife, and carpets of wildflowers.



Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway

Location

The byway is located 20 miles southeast of Salmon off of Idaho 28. Turn east from Idaho 28 at the Tendoy store.

Length

39 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway

Roads are mostly single lane with gravel surface and occasional turnouts.

When to see it

Snow usually closes the roads from November until June. Summer and early fall are the best times of the year to make the journey. Beware of muddy roads in late spring and early summer. The route is groomed in the winter months and is popular with snowmobilers.

Special attractions

Back Country Interpretive Kiosk; Sharkey Hot Springs; Lemhi Pass where the Lewis and Clark expedition first crossed the Continental Divide going west; 1st Flag Unfurling Site; Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Camping

BLM Agency Creek recreation site at Milepost 33: Tent and trailer campsites, toilets, no potable water available.

Services

Full services in Salmon; partial services in Tendoy, Lemhi and Leadore. To the south, the nearest full-service community is Idaho Falls, 140 miles away.

Contacts

The Bureau of Land Management's Salmon Field Office: (208) 756-5400; Salmon-Challis National Forest: (208) 756-5100; Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: (208) 756-2100.

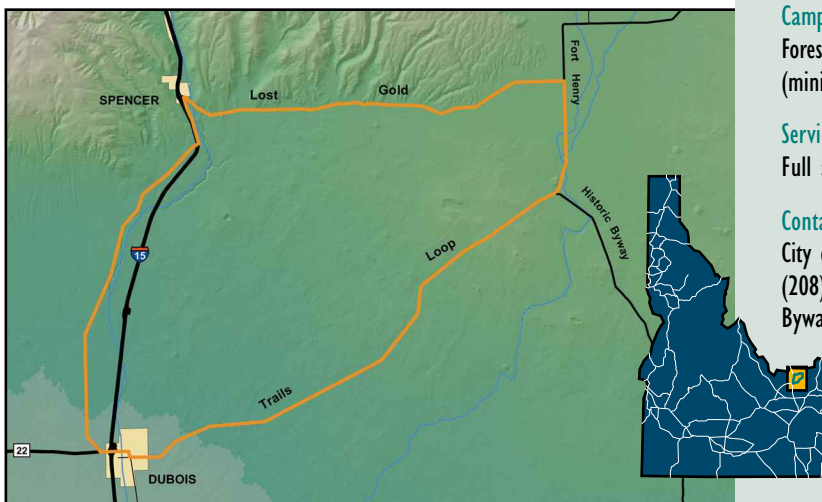


Photo by Jacquelyn Hooper

Lost Gold Trails Loop

The Loop travels southwest along Highway A-2 desert-lava rolling hill terrain where cattle and wild game peacefully share spring and fall months grazing. Arriving at the railroad tracks, which originated the town of “Dry Creek,” know as Dubois, the Trail continues west through town over I-15 overpass onto Idaho 22 to the Old Highway 91 Junction. Continue on Old Highway 91 to Spencer. This road is a favorite for hunters and fishermen. You will pass a U.S. Sheep Experiment Station historical sign and former entrance road.

This early-day Gold Trail closely followed Beaver Creek towards Montana gold mines. At Spencer the Gold Trail of yesterday becomes the Opal Trails of today because of several high grade Opal Shops within the original Wood Live Stock town site. Leaving Spencer, the Trail heads east along the foothills of the Centennial Mountains towards Idmon. Many years ago the Nez Perce used this trail to elude the U.S. Calvary. Today it is dedicated as the National Historic Nez Perce Trail and serves ranchers trailing or trucking cattle and sheep. Spurs off this main roadway trail to private opal mines, Caribou-Targhee Forest, ranches, fishing, hunting, primitive camping areas, and an old area cemetery. It is know also as the home of sandhill cranes, sage grouse, many other wild life species, and includes beautiful fields of native plants, such as the well-known camas.



Lost Gold Trails Loop



Location

Begins on A-2/Red Road Junction at the “Y” east of Dubois, routing to Old Highway 91 north of Dubois to Spencer. Then east on Spencer/Idmon road connecting to Idmon/A-2 Junction and Fort Henry Historic Byway. Continue north towards Kilgore and east to Island Park, or if you choose, turn south and return to the “Y” Junction.

Length

47.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane roadway, no mountain passes. “Y” at A-2/Red Road Junction to Dubois, Old Highway 91 Dubois to Spencer, and 3 miles of Spencer/Idmon paved, last 11 miles of Spencer/Idmon gravel.

When to see it

Dubois to Spencer open year around. Highway A-2 “Y” to Dubois and Spencer/Idmon road closed through winter. Closed roads often become snowmobile trails in winter.

Special attractions

Heritage Hall Museum; Historic Dubois Hotel; Dubois Visitors Center; U.S. Sheep Experiment Station; Medicine Lodge travertine mines; Historic Wood Live Stock Rock House; Beaver Canyon; Nez Perce Trail; China Point; Idmon town site; Spencer opal shops and mines.

Camping

Forest Service Campgrounds at Stoddard and Steel Creeks (minimum facilities).

Services

Full services in Dubois. Partial services in Spencer.

Contacts

City of Dubois: (208) 374-5241; Clark County Courthouse: (208) 374-5304; Dubois Ranger District: (208) 374-5422; Byway Information: (208) 374-5330 or 374-5517.



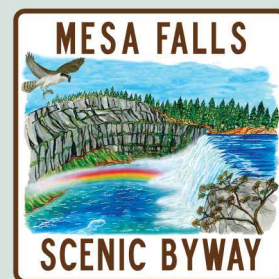
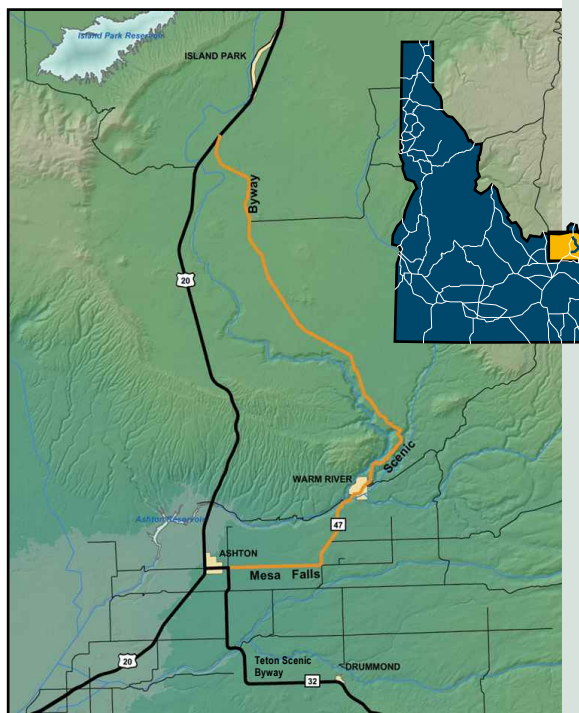
Photo by Pauline Davis ©

Mesa Falls Scenic Byway

The Mesa Falls Scenic Byway begins at the junction of U.S. 20 and Idaho 47, near the northern terminus of the Teton Scenic Byway in Ashton, Idaho. From Ashton, the route travels through the Warm River area towards its main attractions, Upper and Lower Mesa Falls.

At 114 feet and 65 feet respectively, the Upper and Lower Falls offer equally spectacular views in a beautiful forest setting. Both falls can be viewed in full, Lower Falls from a quarter mile distance, Upper Falls from just a few feet away. The area near Upper Falls is enhanced with pathways, stairs and viewing platforms. These improvements lead visitors to the brink of the falls, close enough to feel the power of the cascading water. Some of the pathways and viewing platforms are universally accessible. The historic Big Falls Inn at Upper Falls has been restored to its original splendor and it is now open seasonally (approximately May 15th thru October 1st) as an interpretive center.

Though the byway is less than an hour's driving time, viewing the falls, touring the interpretive center, enjoying a picnic lunch and making stops to view wildflowers can easily fill half a day.



Location

Begins at the Junction of U.S. 20/Idaho 47 in Ashton, northeast 12.4 miles to the old Bear Gulch Ski Area site, then northwest along Forest Service Route 294 to the northern end at U.S. 20.

Length

28.7 miles. Allow 1 hour.

Roadway

Idaho 47 is a two-lane road. Forest Service Route 294 is closed in winter and becomes a Forest Service snowmobile route.

When to see it

In the winter the Forest Service road becomes one of many snowmobile trails in the area. If you have a snowmobile or cross-country skis, winter is the time to go; if you don't, there is no access. Spring through fall is great by car.

Special attractions

Upper Mesa Falls; Lower Mesa Falls; Harriman State Park on U.S. 20; many trails for bikes, horses, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiles.

Camping

The Warm River Forest Service Campground is approximately 9 miles east of Ashton on the Warm River. The Grand View Forest Service Campground is located at the Lower Mesa Falls turnout.

Services

Full services in Ashton.

Contacts

Ashton Ranger District: (208) 652-7442; Island Park Ranger District: (208) 558-7301; Ashton Chamber of Commerce: (208) 652-3987; Ashton Visitor Center: (208) 652-7520; Targhee National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/tnfmefalls/welcome.htm.



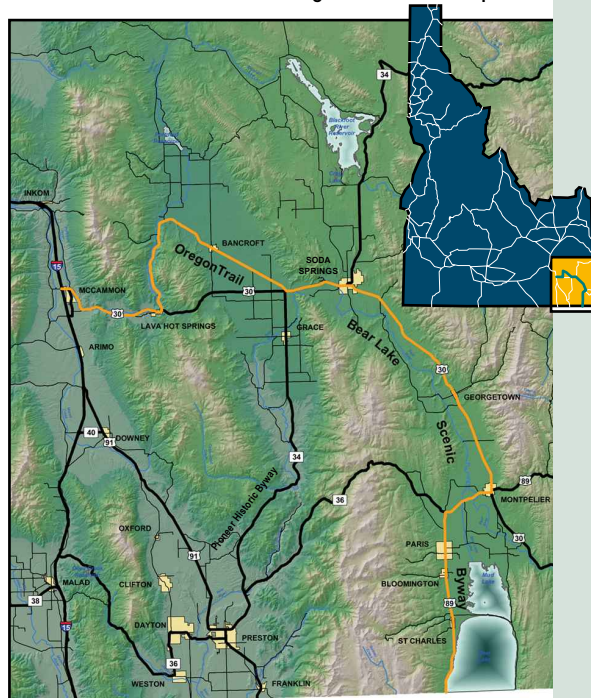
Photo by Judy Holbrook

Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway

Bear Lake straddles the Idaho-Utah border and boasts sandy beaches, great water sports, fishing, boating, and the famous Bear Lake State Park. This byway follows Bear Lake north on U.S. 89 to Montpelier, then north on U.S. 30, where you leave the Cache National Forest and enter the Caribou National Forest.

The intersection of U.S. 89 and U.S. 30 at Montpelier is the site of the attractive National Oregon-California Trail Center dedicated to the history and scenic wonders of the 2,000-mile Oregon-California Trail, part of the largest voluntary migration ever. There, you can ride in computer-controlled covered wagons, journey nearby trails with experienced guides in period costume, and handle the tools and other artifacts used by the pioneers. There is also an expansive park and playground to stretch your legs, as well as a general store and gift shop to help you remember your visit.

There are 13 Oregon-California Trail sites identified in the Soda Springs area. These sites are documented in diaries of the emigrants, in military records, by early mountain men, and settlers. "Travel the Oregon Trail in Caribou County" brochure contains information and directions on each site. The Mormon ghost town of Chesterfield lies 25 miles northwest of Soda Springs and is located right on the Oregon-California Trail.



Location

Begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 89 north to U.S. 30, then north and west to Soda Springs. Then west on U.S. 30 to Blazer Highway (Old U.S. 30) through Bancroft, west and then south to Lava Hot Springs and west to I-15 at McCammon.

Length

110 miles. Allow 2 hours.

Roadway

This section of U.S. 89 is a two-lane road. It can receive heavy snowfall in winter. U.S. 30 is a two-lane road with passing lanes and one short, 5 to 6 percent grade at Georgetown Summit. Blazer Highway is a two-lane road with no passing lanes.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Bear Lake; Bear Lake State Park; Paris Historic Tabernacle; Minnetonka Cave; National Oregon-California Trail Center in Montpelier; Captive Geyser in Soda Springs; Alexander Dam and Power Plant; Chesterfield; Lava Hot Springs.

Camping

Several areas in Caribou National Forest, Bear Lake State Park, Montpelier Canyon, and Lava Hot Springs.

Services

Full services in Montpelier, Soda Springs, Lava Hot Springs; partial services in Paris, Georgetown, McCammon.

Contacts

Bear Lake State Park: (208) 847-1045; Bear Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau: (800) 448-2327, www.bearlake.org; Montpelier Ranger District: (208) 847-0375; Soda Springs Ranger District: (208) 547-4356; The National Oregon-California Trail Center (Montpelier): (866) 847-3800, www.oregontrailcenter.org; Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce: (888) 399-0888, sodacoc@sodachamber.com; Pioneer Country Travel Council, (888) 201-1063, www.seidaho.org.



Photo by Kirk Anderson © IdahoScenicImages.com

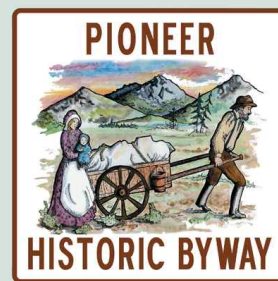
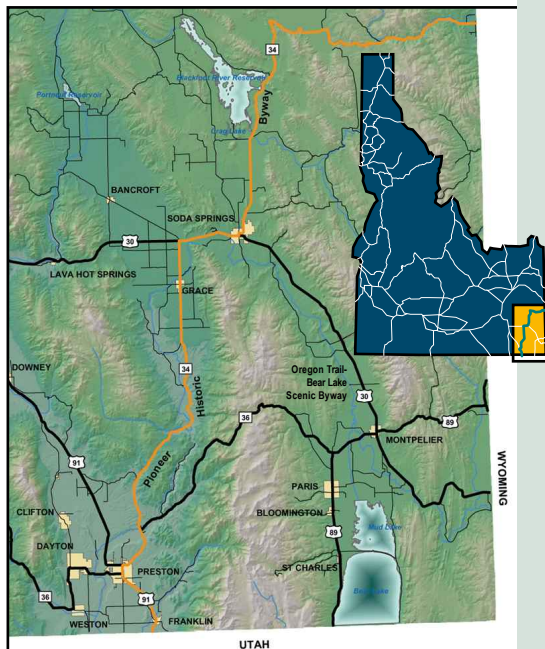
Pioneer Historic Byway



On this route, travelers can retrace some steps of Idaho's early pioneers and follow the historic path taken by early-day Yellowstone Park visitors. From Franklin, Idaho's oldest settlement, this byway heads north to Soda Springs and on to the Wyoming border. This route offers the shortest distance and time between Salt Lake City and Yellowstone Park.

Along the way you can see the remnants of the first grist mill in Idaho, one of the original Yellowstone Highway markers, the 100+ year old Mormon Oneida Academy, the site of the massacre at Bear River, Devil's Hand, the Niter Ice Cave, Last Chance Canal, cinder cones from extinct volcanoes, a section of the Oregon-California Trail, and many other historical points of interest, documenting early settlement in this portion of Idaho.

Soda Springs offers numerous opportunities for visitors. Among a variety of historic attractions, the town features the world's only captive geyser, with a plume of almost 100 feet. In addition, the nearby Formation Springs Nature Conservancy Area contains a travertine-formed cave and excellent waterfowl and wildlife viewing.



Location

Begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 91, then Idaho 34, north to U.S. 30 and then east to Soda Springs where it meets the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway. From there, north on Idaho 34 toward the Wyoming state line.

Length

127 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

Roadway

U.S. 91 is a two-lane road with some passing lanes. Idaho 34 is a two-lane road with one moderately steep grade between Wayan and the Wyoming border. This is a heavy snowfall area with most winter travel being made on a snow floor. The section of Idaho 34 between Soda Springs and the Wyoming border may occasionally be closed in the winter.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Bear River Massacre Site; Red Rock Pass; Niter Ice Cave; Black Canyon Gorge; Last Chance Canal; Franklin Historic District; Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Oneida Stake Academy; Chesterfield town site and the world's only captive geyser in Soda Springs.

Camping

Several in the Caribou National Forest.

Services

Full services in Preston, Grace, Soda Springs; partial services in Franklin.

Contacts

Preston Area Chamber of Commerce: (208) 852-2703, www.prestonidaho.org; Pioneer Country Travel Council: (800) 423-8597 or (888) 201-1063, www.seidaho.org; Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce: (208) 547-2600 or (888) 399-0888, www.sodachamber.com; U.S. Forest Service-Soda Springs Ranger District: (208) 547-4356; www.pioneerhistoricbyway.org; www.bywayonline.org.



Sacajawea Historic Byway

Location

Begins at the intersection of Interstate 15 & Idaho 33 at Exit 143, follows Idaho 33 about 12 miles west to its junction with Idaho 28, and follows Idaho 28 northwest for 120 miles to Salmon, Idaho.

Length

132 miles. About 2.5 hours.

Roadway

Idaho 33 is a straight and flat road. Speed is limited through the towns of Terreton and Mud Lake. Idaho 28 is mostly straight, with some hills as you gradually make your way over Gilmore Summit, a low mountain pass at 7,186 feet. Watch for icy conditions and snow drifts in winter. Both are two lane roads, with areas for passing.

When to see it

Year around. Summer months afford easier travel, while spectacular autumn colors are best viewed late September through October.

Special attractions

Idaho 28 parallels the Continental Divide for almost 100 miles. Other attractions: Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area; Prehistoric Man; Charcoal Kilns; Birch Creek; Gilmore Town Site; Meadow Lake; Leadore Ranger Station/Visitor Center; Sacajawea Interpretive Center; Lemhi County Historical Museum.

Camping

Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area (Fish & Game), Birch Creek Campground (BLM), Kaufman Campground (BLM), Lone Pine, Smokey Cubs Campground (USFS), Leadore, Meadow Lake Campground (USFS), McFarland Campground (BLM), Salmon.

Services

Partial services in Terreton, Mud Lake, Lone Pine, Leadore, Lemhi and Tendoy. Full services in Salmon.

Contacts

Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: (800) 727-2540, www.salmonchamber.com; Sacajawea Interpretive Center (208) 756-1188, www.sacajaweacenter.org; USFS Leadore Ranger District: (208) 768-2500; Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Office, Salmon: (208) 756-5400; Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area: (208) 663-4664; Lemhi County Historical Museum: (208) 756-3342; Lone Pine Cafe: (208) 589-6507; Lemhi Mercantile: (208) 768-2680; Tendoy Store: (208) 756-3504.

Sacajawea Historic Byway

Sacajawea, an "Agai Dika" Shoshone woman born around 1788, is known around the world as a trusted and valuable member of the famed Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. A lesser-known fact, however, is her historical tie to Idaho's Lemhi Valley where she was born and raised until the age of twelve. Captured by the Arikira Indians and forced to live among them in the Mandan Villages of North Dakota, Sacajawea would not see her home again until becoming part of the Corps of Discovery in 1805. It was during this expedition that she would help Lewis and Clark find the Salmon River and revisit her people.

This passage through the high country of eastern Idaho offers a wealth of engaging stories, many of them considered historical legacies of Idaho and beyond. Found here are fossils of the extinct North American (or Pleistocene) lion, Native American rock art, the compelling stories of the Lemhi-Shoshone people, the Lewis and Clark expedition's passage through Sacajawea's homeland, the flight of the Nez Perce, the Reverend Samuel Parker, Fort Lemhi, the legacy of Chief Tendoy, stage routes and rail lines that served the mining boom of the late 1800's, and much more. Come discover for yourself what makes Sacajawea Historic Byway such a legacy.

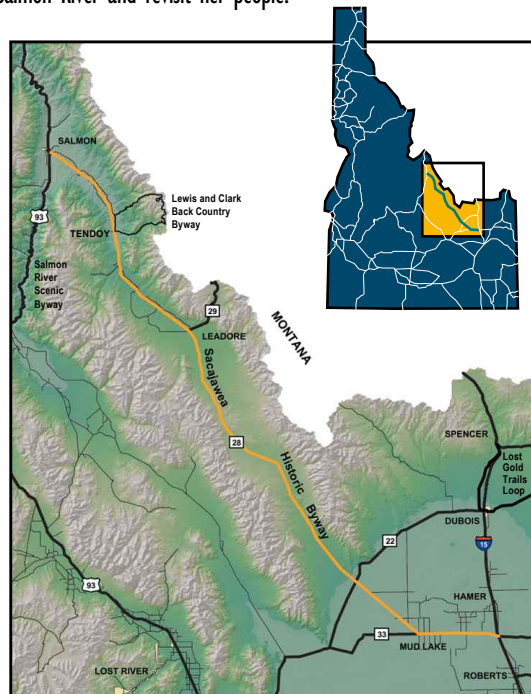




Photo by Pauline Davis ©

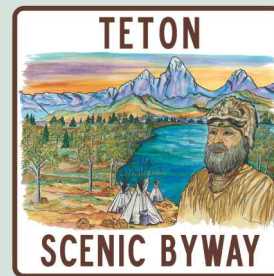
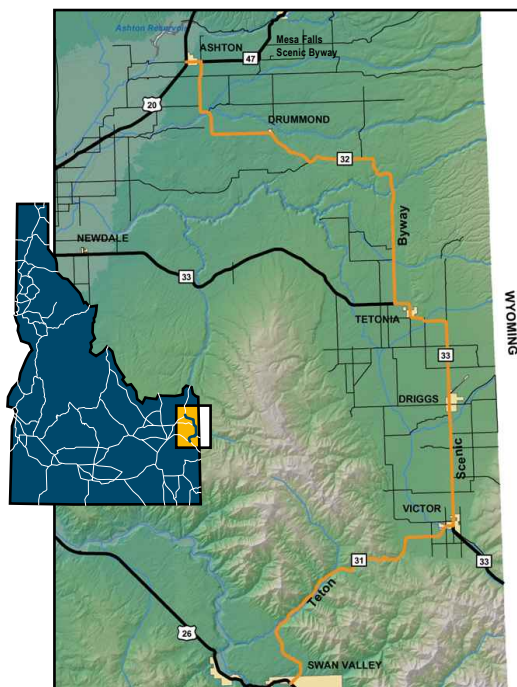
Teton Scenic Byway

The jagged teeth of the Teton Mountain Range are actually in Wyoming, but Idahoans prefer “the quiet side” on the western slopes, along the Teton Scenic Byway.

At nearly 10 million years young, the Tetons are the newest mountains in the Rockies. In fact, they continue to grow today at the snail-like pace of about an inch every hundred years. In fact, the largest peak on the range, Grand Teton, now stands at 13,772 feet.

Beginning at Swan Valley, this byway travels east on Idaho 31 through the beautiful Pine Creek pass to the town of Victor, and then north on Idaho 33, along the western side of the Teton Range. The mountains sharply contrast with the rolling agricultural fields to the north and west. In the towns of the Teton Valley, Victor, Driggs, and Teton, travelers can enjoy small town hospitality, internationally famous resorts and festival events held throughout the year.

West of Teton, the byway turns north on Idaho 32, offering glimpses of the Tetons and the Falls River until it reaches Ashton, where the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway begins.



Location

Begins on Idaho 31 at Swan Valley northeast to Idaho 33 at Victor, then north on Idaho 33 to Idaho 32, north on Idaho 32 to Idaho 47 at Ashton.

Length

68.9 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

Roadway

Pine Creek Pass has a two lane roadway with no passing lanes. It has 6-percent grades, some 35-mph curves, and often has a snow floor in winter. Idaho 33 is a two lane roadway with ample passing opportunities.

When to see it

Year around, but fall foliage is spectacular as are the wildflowers of late spring.

Special attractions

Great views of the Teton Mountains; Targhee National Forest; unlimited recreational activities; State Historic Markers; trails and pathways; Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort near Driggs.

Camping

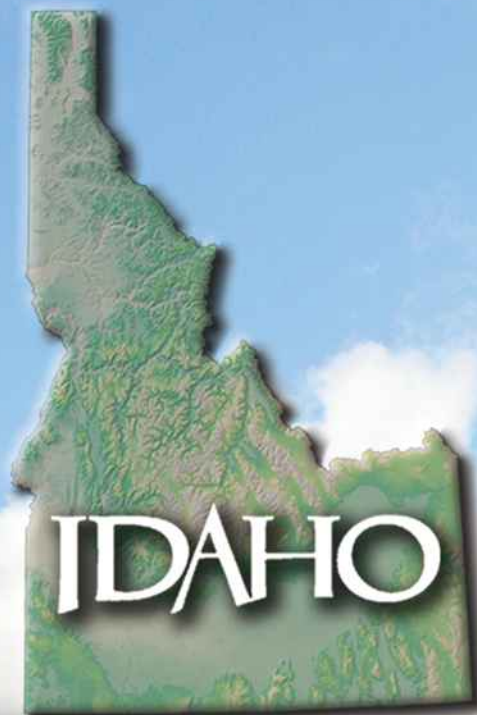
Numerous Forest Service and private campgrounds available throughout Teton Valley.

Services

Full services in Swan Valley, Victor, Driggs, Teton, Ashton.

Contacts

Palisades Ranger District: (208) 523-1412; Ashton Chamber of Commerce: (208) 652-3987; Teton Basin Ranger District: (208) 354-2312; Yellowstone Teton Territory: (800) 634-3246, ifcofc@ida.net, www.yellowstoneteton.org; Targhee National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/tnf/; Teton Valley Chamber of Commerce: (208) 354-2500, www.tetonvalleychamber.com; www.visittetonvalley.com.



Taking the **Scenic Route**

Contributors:

Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Highway Administration
Idaho Commerce and Labor
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho Transportation Department
North Central Idaho Travel Association
North Idaho Tourism Alliance
Pioneer Country Travel
South Central Idaho Tourism
& Recreation Development Association
Southwest Idaho Travel Association
U.S. Forest Service
Yellowstone Teton Territory

*A guide to Idaho's
scenic byways*